Sandwell
CHRONICLE

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Council hopes idea will save sites from closure

VOLUNTEER PLAN TO RUN LIBRARIES

By Heather Large

LIBRARIES in Sandwell will be run by more volunteers as part of cost-cutting plans aimed at saving sites from closure.

Some libraries may also move to share buildings with other services in a bid to save cash.

Sandwell Council has already ruled out closing the sites at Hill Top, West Bromwich; Oakham, Tividale; and Langley, Brandhall and Rounds Green, all at Oldbury, following a public consultation. Bosses are now continuing with a review of staffing levels and looking at other ways to save money.

Plans will be drawn up by the council and then a second consultation is due to take place with staff, community groups and library users.

The council says it needs to save £700,000 from the library budget over the next two years.

Council leader Darren Cooper said: "In February cabinet agreed a model which seeks to increase income while meeting budget cuts but avoid any closures. We are looking at sharing spaces with partners, encouraging volunteers and possibly selling things like school text books from libraries so we can maintain these valuable assets."

Options

Consultation with staff, library users and community groups took place earlier this year .

Options looked at included converting them into smaller 'express' libraries and moving them to different sites with staff provided by other organisations.

It also considered moving them to alternative premises, keeping them open on the same sites but either run by more volunteers or with sharing the buildings with other services. The final option was to keep them the same.

During the consultation, library managers met with more than 150 people at five public meetings as well as 75 members of friends' groups to get views on the proposals.

Sixty two written responses were received to the consultation including some from residents and councillors.

In March it was revealed that an extra £16 million of cuts will need to be made by the council within the next three years.

A 'Facing the Future' programme was launched last year to find £22m of savings and this will now be extended to achieve cuts of £38m by 2018.

Officials had already been forced to make around £41m of savings between 2015 and 2017 after grants to the council from central Government were reduced.

Council chiefs have reiterated the priority is to protect front line services.

VETERANS' PROUD TRIBUTE ON VE DAY ANNIVERSARY

Veterans at the VE commemorative service 'Thanksgiving for Victory' in Oldbury Civic Square

MILITARY veterans proudly wearing their service medals gathered at Oldbury's war memorial to remember those who gave their lives to ensure the Nazis were defeated 70 years ago.

The public joined them to sing hymns and listen to sermons during the solemn occasion to mark VE Day on Sunday morning. Standard bearers surrounding the memorial held flags aloft during the 45-minute ceremony.

The commemoration followed the order of service from the Thanksgiving for Victory Service at Westminster Abbey at the end of the war in 1945. Jim Thomas was eight-years-old when the Second World War came to an end. He remembers his family holding street parties to celebrate the end of the conflict.

Mr Thomas, now 78, from Dudley, said: "It has revived memories for me. I remember the street parties we used to have.

"I didn't fully understand it until I realised that some people who lived in the street never came back."

Bob Clarke's father fought in the war and was one of the many soldiers who was in Dunkirk as part of the D-Day landings.

The 68-year-old, from Langley, who spent 22 years with the Royal Signals Regiment, said it was important to remember those who made the ultimate sacrifice for their country.

Mr Thomas, who served with the Royal Artillery 5th Field Regiment, said: "Memories have to be kept alive. People have given their lives and it's important that we remember them."

Another veteran, Gerald Griffiths from Cradley Heath, said: "It reminds ourselves of what they did in the past and what they had to go through."

POLITICS

MP in running for Deputy Leader role

WEST Bromwich East MP Tom Watson has already raised more than £11,500 towards his campaign to become the party's new deputy leader, replacing Harriet Harman.

The donations included £4,000 from a single backer through a website he set up to 'crowd fund' his bid.

More than 300 people donated to his campaign since it was set up on Sunday. Mr Watson was re-elected to his seat, as were John Spellar for Warley and Adrian Bailey for West Bromwich West.

● Clean sweep – Page 4

NUISANCE

Complaints over mini moto riders

POLICE have been called over mini motorbike riders tearing around Warley Woods.

Residents alerted neighbourhood officers after mini motos were seen on pathways and at the golf centre. Riders have also been causing a nuisance around the beauty spot and people have taken to social media to complain.

Warley Woods Community Trust officials say police have been informed and officers have been out on patrol.

CRIME

Police arrest 11 in homes swoop

ELEVEN people were arrested when police stormed homes across Sandwell as part of a major crackdown on drug-related crime.

Around 100 officers swooped on properties in Tipton, Rowley Regis, Oldbury, West Bromwich and Bradley. The total of number of arrests made during the Spring Safer Six operation now stands at almost 50.

Chief Inspector Jane Parry said the latest operation was targeting the stolen goods market.

She said: "If you're involved in crime at any level across the borough then you can expect a knock on your door."

INSIDE:

Bob a Taylor-made success with fans

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Time delay on return of landmark clock

The Bearwood Clock

PLANS to return a landmark clock to its original home in the Black Country have been delayed.

The Bearwood clock should have left its Birmingham city centre location on April 29 to go to Derby for repairs before returning to the heart of Bearwood for the first time since 1971.

However, Sandwell Council's deputy leader Steve Eling said the clock had not left as planned and he was going to write to the city council to ask for an explanation.

He added the council needed to know when the clock would be returning so preparations could be made, including ensuring there was an electricity supply.

Councillor Eling said: "We have been asking when is it coming? what is happening with it? so we can prepare for its arrival, but this has thrown everything into doubt."

The clock had stood outside the Kings Head pub in Bearwood since 1900. But it was moved in 1971 to make way for road widening and for the last few decades has stood in a shopping mall in Birmingham city centre.

Birmingham City Council would not reveal the reason for the delay – but said the clock would return to Bearwood as planned in the summer. City council spokesman Kris Kowalewski said: "It was intended to remove the clock for refurbishment work from the city centre in Birmingham by the end of April but this was not possible for unforeseen circumstances. It has always been the plan to then relocate the clock to Sandwell in the summer of this year – and that remains the case."

A £2 million scheme to improve the safety and appearance of Bearwood Road and Cape Hill, funded by Sandwell Council, is already under way.

Discount store opening creates around 40 jobs

AROUND 40 jobs will be created when discount shop B&M Stores takes over a vacant unit at Wednesbury's Gallagher Retail Park.

The new branch will open at the former Decathlon premises on May 23.

Work is now under way to refurbish and fit out the premises.

The new store is the latest boost for the popular retail park and follows the announcement of plans to give the site a £5million revamp to attract more shoppers to the busy complex.

Adam Porter, store manager at B&M Wednesbury said: "B&M is committed to recruiting from the local area and I am delighted we've found a great team from in and around Wednesbury.

"We're really proud to be creating 40 jobs across the town this year and playing our part in the local community.

"We are excited to get the doors open on May 23 and look forward to providing great value products and world class service to customers."

Construction

From only 21 stores and one distribution centre in 2004, B&M has now grown to four distribution centres as well as more than 400 stores across the whole of the United Kingdom.

The plans to revamp Gallagher Retail Park includes the creation of three new restaurants, leading to around 150 jobs.

It is hoped construction work on the new restaurants could begin in around six months time, if planning permission is approved, with the businesses set to open before the end of 2016.

The plans also include changes to the car parks at the retail park, close to Junction 9 of the M6, to make it easier for shoppers to get around and ease congestion.

The new restaurants will be built at the centre of the site, off Axletree Way, on land which is currently used for parking. They will join existing food chains including Pizza Hut, Burger King and Starbucks.

It is the latest jobs boost announced for Wednesbury following Lidl's announcement of 500 roles at its new distribution centre.

Work is due to begin on the 450,000 sq ft base later this year.

Town pride at stake in boxing clash

Front, Dave Parsons, left and Matt Lemm promote the 'Clash of the Towns' boxing match

FRIENDSHIPS in two Black Country towns will be cast aside in a fight that's on everyone's lips.

The charity event billed as 'Clash of the Towns' will pit people from Darlaston and Willenhall against each other.

The knockout night has been arranged to raise money for Macmillan Cancer Support as well as Birmingham Children's Hospital.

The children's hospital means a lot to the event organiser Matthew Lemm from Boswell Close, Darlaston, who runs the Workers Rest pub in Willenhall.

He said: "My son Ethan, who's 12 now, was born with a hole in the heart and Birmingham Children's Hospital saved his life."

Mr Lemm, aged 35, who took over the pub about 18 months ago, said: "Historically Willenhall and Darlaston don't really get on for stupid petty reasons, but we have been here a while and we are like family now."

As many as 40 people from the two areas put on the boxing gloves on November 28 at the Central Suite in Bilston.

Mr Lemm will fight his best friend David Parsons, from Willenhall, and so far has about a dozen other people signed up to get into the ring.

Standard entry will cost £25 but VIP tables for 10 people can be booked for £500 which will include early access and a three-course meal. For more information contact Mr Lemm on 07923 448236.

Ballot over strike action in dispute on pensions

THOUSANDS of steel workers - including hundreds across the Black Country - have started voting on whether to take industrial action in a row over pensions.

Members of Community, Ucatt and the GMB unions at Tata Steel will vote in the coming weeks on whether to launch a campaign of action in protest at plans to close the British Steel Pension Scheme to future accrual.

The unions are urging their members to vote in favour of strike action and for other forms of industrial action.

As well as major steelmaking operations in South Wales and on Teesside, the firm's major distribution centre is at the Steelpark in Wednesfield, where it employs around 600. It also has sites in Brierley Hill, Walsall and Wednesbury.

Roy Rickhuss, general secretary of Community, said: "Unfortunately there is no sign of Tata showing any willingness to work in a collaborative and co-operative spirit and re-enter meaningful discussions with the trade unions about the future of the British Steel Pension Scheme.

"To defend the hard-earned pensions of our members we have no choice but to ballot for industrial action.This is not a situation we wanted to find ourselves in.

"The unions were prepared to discuss changes that resolved the challenges faced by the scheme but Tata rejected that constructive offer. "

A Tata Steel spokesman said: "We need to modify our final salary pension scheme because of the increasing deficit."

£3m arts site plans are sent in

PLANS for a £3 million performing arts centre at Halesowen College will go before councillors on May 18

It is the latest stage of a revamp at the site, with £20m being invested.

The centre will provide teaching rooms and rehearsal space for students on music, drama and dance courses.

The new complex was due to be connected to other buildings at the Whittingham Road site by a glass walkway, which the college had hoped to use as an exhibition space and break area for students. But fire officers at Dudley Council said as the linkway would be the main escape route for the block in an emergency, it would need to be left clear, putting a stop to the college's plans.

Revised designs have now been submitted.

Plans lodged for school extension

A PRIMARY school in Great Barr could be expanded under new plans to provide dozens of extra places.

Eight extra classrooms will be created at Greenholm Primary School to help meet demand. Plans have been submitted to Birmingham City Council.

E-fit image released of suspect in sex assault

POLICE have released this image of a man they want to track down after a woman was sexually assaulted in an alleyway in Wednesbury.

Police say the attack happened as the 26-year-old woman cut through the alley linking Redhouse Avenue and Pound Road on March 9.

Officers have now now released an e-fit image of the suspect in a bid to trace him.

Suspect's image

Officers continue to explore CCTV footage in the area and are working on forensic material gathered following the attack, which happened just after 9pm.

After the assault patrols in the area were stepped up to reassure concerned locals and the woman has been supported by specialist sex offence agencies and police officers.

She has also been working with a specially trained police artist to produce the e-fit image of the suspect.

The offender is believed to be an Eastern European white man – possibly Polish – in his late 30s or early 40s, around 6ft tall and of slim build.

Anyone who can help is asked to call police on 101.

Man arrested after farm knife siege

ARMED police sealed off a visitor centre in West Bromwich after reports a worker threatened colleagues with a knife and held them hostage.

Eleven police vehicles converged on Sandwell Valley Country Park after the alarm was raised just after 4pm last Friday. The drama was centred on the farm shop, which was open at the time, at the popular nature reserve, off Salters Lane.

Armed police surrounded the grade II-listed building during the hour-long siege. A 24-year-old from Moxley eventually emerged without the use of force and was arrested on suspicion of assault and false imprisonment.

Inspector Akeel Najib, of Sandwell Police, said a 45-year-old West Bromwich woman, who worked at the shop, was checked over by medics after being left badly shocked.

Fallen tree leads to road delays

A TREE fell onto a busy West Bromwich road, causing major delays.

The fallen tree blocked part of Newton Road in West Bromwich, near its junction with Forge Lane on Monday. It was cleared in time for rush hour.

Vandals target forces charity again

Van driver Trevor Farrow at the shop

VANDALS have targeted a charity which helps families of Black Country soldiers for the third time in just nine months.

Staff and volunteers at Forces Support branch, in West Bromwich, told of their disappointment at the latest attack.

Tyres were slashed on the charity's van used for collections and deliveries of stock leaving it off the road for a day until replacements were fitted.

A small fire was also started at a bin outside the premises in Carters Green. Charity bosses say they have worked to increase security since previous vandalism attacks last year and have CCTV at the site.

But they are struggling to afford the £3,000 costs of installing security fencing around the site.

Charity staff Michelle Haynes and Trevor Farrow surveyed the damage after it is believed the yobs attacked sometime between Sunday afternoon and Monday morning.

CCTV images are now being viewed to try to find the culprits.

"There are no words to describe the people who did this," said Michelle.

"Someone had stabbed the tyres with a knife. Why would they do this?

"I couldn't believe it. To have it happen again is really bad. It left the van off the road until we could get the tyres replaced."

A traffic cone was used to smash the windscreen of the charity's delivery van during the attack last autumn.

The attack came just weeks after a thief ripped a wing mirror from another of its vans costing the charity vital funds for repairs.

Police are investigating the attack. Call 101.

Carjacker leaves elderly victim lying in street

A GRANDFATHER-of-three suffered horrific injuries after being mown down by a carjacker outside his own home.

Reginald Stocking was left lying in the middle of the street, with a broken eye socket, chipped skull and a bleed on the brain, after the brutal attack in West Bromwich.

The 78-year-old was returning home when he was hit over the head by the thief, who had been lying in wait as he parked his car.

Mr Stocking had tried in vain to stop the thief stealing his Peugeot 207 by grabbing hold of the door but was knocked over and forced against a wall before being dragging along the road as the car fled the scene.

Mr Stocking was taken to Sandwell General Hospital where he remains in a poorly condition and is currently receiving oxygen.

Mr Stocking's injuries

His son David said: "He can't remember anything. He doesn't know anything about the injuries he has got."

The 47-year-old scaffolder said he did not know when he would be out of hospital or whether he would ever fully recover until further tests had been carried out. An initial scan had shown a small bleed on Mr Stocking's brain.

Mr Stocking worked as a security guard for 20 years, collecting money from shops and banks. He also spent 30 years as an engineer with Brockhouse Transmissions in West Bromwich.

The former Charlemont School pupil in West Bromwich was also a local football referee for many years and even took charge of games involving West Bromwich Albion in the late 60s.

The attack took place on Sunday at around 9.20pm when Mr Stocking returned from a night at the bingo at Mecca in Oldbury. He had just helped his wife Sylvia, aged 80, to the door and was parking in the garage off Chapel Street, behind his home in Old Meeting Street.

The light blue Peugeot 207 – registration BK60 LXN – is still missing and also contained a bag full of £2 coins, which Mr Stocking had saved. Anyone with information is asked to call Sandwell Police investigation team on 101.

Buds general manager Robert Bruce, with Harbans Kaur Lallie, from Guru Nanak Ladies Charity following the £1,500 donation

Buds is boosted by ladies' donation

A CHARITY which supports dementia sufferers in the Black Country has received a huge boost following a £1,500 donation from a generous group of ladies.

Better Understanding of Dementia in Sandwell (Buds) is the latest charity that the Guru Nanak Nam Ladies Jatha has chosen to support.

Members have given cash to more than a dozen charities in recent years. The charity was selected after a one of the ladies became aware of them in her role as a volunteer at Stone Cross Library in West Bromwich.

The charity runs regular clubs which enable sufferers to get out of the house and socialise with other people.

It also affords carers some time to take a break from looking after family members around the clock, offers home visits and works with the fire service, leisure centres and other organisations to make Sandwell 'more dementia friendly'.

Rob Bruce, general manager at BUDS, said:"This will give us a massive shot in the arm. It could mean a few more months of venue hire for us or minibus hire."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Plans made for Christmas lunch

ORGANISERS of a Christmas lunch for the needy in Sandwell are already making preparations for this year.

Around 50 diners had their festive lunch served up by founders Carol and Patrick Beckford in Smethwick.

Now the scheme, called Becks and Deks Smethwick Seniors Christmas Rescue Crew, have announced plans for this festive season.

The four-course lunch will be held at St Mark's Church, at the junction of Thimblemill Road and Hales Lane, Smethwick. To register call 0121 569 6143 or 07968 272013.

Suspicion over huge factory fire

FIRE chiefs say a huge fire that destroyed a plastics factory in Oldbury may have been started deliberately.

The blaze, on April 29, burned for 16 hours at Teknor Apex on Tat Bank Road. At its height it was tackled by 75 firefighters.The blaze is being treated as suspicious by investigators.

Watch commander Jason Boyd, from Oldbury Fire Station, said: "We knew where the fire started.

"The fire investigation officer saw evidence that it was possibly suspicious. There are a lot of investigations going on at the moment."

Parks to host rounders games

ROUNDERS games are taking place at parks in Sandwell.

Sessions are running at Lightwoods Park in Bearwood, Brunswick Park in Wednesbury and Haden Hill Park, Cradley Heath.

The sessions take place at Brunswick Park on Mondays from May 18.

They will be held at Lightswood Park on Wednesdays from May 20 and at Haden Hill Park on Thursdays, starting May 21. Sessions run from 6-7.30pm.

£1m scheme leads to jobs made available

ALMOST 130 jobs and dozens of training and education places have been created for young people in Sandwell since the launch of a £1 million scheme.

The Sandwell Guarantee is aiming to find paid work or training for at least six months for 4,000.

More than 100 firms have already signed up to be involved in the Sandwell Council project.

The council will split the cost of wages 50/50 for up to one year.

Standards warning

TRADING standards officers have issued a "rogue traders" warning about gardening and landscaping workers who do sub-standard work or charge very high prices. Area trading standards officer issued the warning after reports of poor standards of work or over-charging in Sandwell.

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THE BEST OF PETER RHODES

COLUMNIST and curmudgeon Rod Liddle draws our attention to a survey which suggests women do not notice men over 50. Thank heavens. I thought it was just me.

QUOTES for our time. "If it wasn't for the riots we wouldn't have got this far." Black youth on the streets of Baltimore speaking to the BBC after six policemen were charged following the death of a black suspect. Or, to put it another way, rioting works.

TOLD you so. A couple of years ago, as gay marriage was being rushed on to the statute book, I suggested that once the tradition of man and woman had been broken, there was really no reason why marriage should not include all sorts of relationships. A few days ago, the gay website Pink News put the question of threesomes to the Green Party leader Natalie Bennett and this is what she said: "We have led the way on many issues related to the liberalisation of legal status in adult consenting relationships, and we are open to further conversation and consultation." In other words, start planning the three-way reception now. A MetroNews poll in response revealed, at the time of writing, 42 per cent support for three-way marriages and civil partnerships. How quickly attitudes change. It is striking how those Pink News readers who fervently defend two-person marriages now come across as reactionary fuddy-duddies.

I SENSED there would be trouble when the new World Snooker Champion Stuart Bingham reflected on the pure hell of getting to the top. What did the title mean to him? "Everything," replied the champ. "Twenty years as a pro. Blood, sweat, and tears, on the road, qualifying in places like Prestatyn and Malvern – places like that." Sure enough, the Mayor of Prestatyn has duly taken offence and publicly declared: "We, the residents, are very proud of our town." I dare say you are, Madam Mayor. But we all know exactly what Bingham was talking about, the separation, isolation and misery of staying in sterile, lookalike hotels in towns you don't know: the loneliness of the long-distance potter. Instead of the mayor going all hurt and defensive, how about doing something imaginative? Like offering Stuart Bingham the freedom of Prestatyn.

WHILE we all loved the suspense, does anyone seriously believe that the gender of the royal baby and her name were not known well in advance? The Royal Family is not a real family but an extremely slick marketing and investment corporation. And I bet the name Charlotte was agreed weeks ago.

Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star

THE WINNERS AND THE LOSERS IN BATTLE FOR VOTES IN THE GENERAL AND LOCAL ELECTIONS

Take it as red, it's a clean sweep for Labour

By Richard Guttridge

LABOUR may have suffered a bruising election night nationally, but the party made a clean sweep in Sandwell, retaining all three parliamentary seats with Tom Watson, John Spellar and Adrian Bailey all securing a comfortable re-election.

Receiving almost 19,000 votes, Mr Watson held the traditionally labour strong West Bromwich East.

The Conservatives' Olivia Seccombe was the best of the rest, beating Ukip by a little over 1,000 votes.

It was close between the Tories and Ukip across Sandwell as the two battled it out to be second best.

A jubilant Mr Watson – who says he will consider standing for Labour's deputy leader after Harriet Harman announced she would step down from the role – promised to put the constituents of West Bromwich East first.

Outcome

He said: "I pledge first and foremost for the constituents of West Bromwich East and will fight for them in Westminster.

"I am delighted that people have stuck by me on this unusual election night when you could never predict what the outcome would be."

Mr Watson holds a majority of more than 9,500 over the Tories who received 9,347 votes.

There was a big thumbs-up from John Spellar as he once again elected MP for Warley.

The 67-year-old held onto the safe Labour seat with a massive majority of almost 15,000.

Mr Spellar, who received a total of 22,012, thanked the voters who had chosen to stick by him and said he looked forward to serving them in the coming years.

The Conservatives came second with 7,310 votes, narrowly beating Ukip, who scored 6,237.

The Liberal Democrat vote collapsed, with the party receiving just 805 votes in Warley, fewer than the Greens, who got 1,465.

After his victory was announced Mr Spellar, who has served the Warley ward since its formation in 1997, said: "I am very pleased to have substantially increased my majority.

"It reflects the warmth of feeling I have experienced on the streets.

"I never take it for granted and I think that's the point, you have to campaign for votes and provide a service to the community."

There were loud cheers from Labour supporters as Adrian Bailey held onto his seat in West Bromwich West, polling 16,578 votes.

Mr Bailey, who held the seat with a majority of almost 8,000, said: "I am absolutely delighted.

"I am grateful for the public's support. They have been very loyal over the years and now hopefully I can repay that," he said.

There was disappointment for Conservative candidate Paul Ratner whose 8,365 votes put him third behind Ukip candidate Graham Eardley who scored 8,836.

He was jeered for calling for a change to the current voting system. But he reflected on a positive night for the party – and insisted there was more to come.

He said: "Second place is an excellent result considering where we were 10 years ago.

"I'm grateful to everyone who turned out and voted and it's something for us to build on. This is a firm foundation. I believe there will be no safe Labour or Conservative seats in 2020."

John Spellar is delighted after being returned as the Labour MP for Warley

Tom Watson MP retained his Labour parliamentary seat for West Bromwich East

Ukip candidate Grham Eardley looks disappointed – but was ecstatic at the outcome for his party

Adrian Bailey made a clean sweep for Labour in Sandwell as he kept his West Bromwich West seat

A look at where the electorate put their crosses in the parliamentary poll

ALMOST every MP who won their seat five years ago increased their majority as voters in the Black Country, Staffordshire and Wyre Forest rallied behind Labour and the Tories.

The only casualty in 19 seats was Conservative Paul Uppal, whose 691-vote majority in Wolverhampton South West was overturned by Labour rival Rob Marris.

Most other MPs won more votes last Thursday than they had in 2010.

Exceptions to this rule including Aldridge Brownhills, where new MP Wendy Morton still won comfortably but with a smaller majority than retiring Sir Richard Shepherd.

Dudley North, previously the most marginal seat in the Black Country, swung firmly behind Labour's Ian Austin.

Yet in Dudley South, Conservative Mike Wood improved upon the majority won by his predecessor Chris Kelly.

Over in Cannock Chase, Amanda Milling scored even better than her predecessor Aidan Burley, who won in 2010 with the biggest swing to the Conservatives from Labour.

These are the results:

● **Warley:**
Robert Buckman (Green) 1,465, Pete Durnell (UKIP) 6,237, Cath Smith (Lib Dem) 805, John Spellar (Lab) 22,012, Tom Williams (Con) 7,310:
Result: Labour Hold Majority: 14,702.
Turnout: 59.3%

● **West Bromwich East:**
Flo Clucas (Lib Dem) 751, Steve Latham (UKIP) 7,949, Barry Lim (Green) 628, Olivia Seccombe (Con) 9,347, Tom Watson (Lab) 18,817.
Result: Labour Hold Majority: 9,470.
Turnout: 58.9%

● **West Bromwich West:**
Adrian Bailey (Lab) 16,578, Garham Eardley (UKIP) 8,836, Paul Ratner (Con) 8,365, Mark Redding (Green) 697, Karen Trench (Lib Dem) 550.
Result: Labour Hold Majority: 7,742:
Turnout: 53.4%

Results from across borough

Abbey
Keith Bracey (Green) 482, Steve Eling (Lab)* 3,386, Richard Kemp (Con) 952, David Perry (UKIP) 745, Lynn Wadding (TUSC) 89. Lab hold

Blackheath
Debbie Elwell (Con) 1,696, Ian Keeling (UKIP) 1,336, Robert Price (Lab)* 2,418. Lab hold

Bristnall
Robert Buckman (Green) 340, Shirley Ching (Con) 1,127, Carol Goult (Lab)* 2,468, Judith Malan (UKIP) 1,437. Lab hold

Charlemont with Grove Vale
Elizabeth Giles (Lab) 2,358, Anne Hughes (Con)* 2,068, John Macefield (Green) 235, Graham Nock (UKIP) 1,429. Lab gain

Cradley Heath and Old Hill
Pete Durnell (UKIP) 1,190, Benjamin Groom (Green) 169, Robert Johns (LD) 163, Stephanie Palmer (Con) 1,404, Anne Shackleton (Lab)* 3,041. Lab hold

Friar Park
Joy Edis (Lab)* 2,204, Daniel Parkes (UKIP) 1,466, Robert White (Con) 936. Lab hold

Great Barr with Yew Tree
Murray Abbott (Green) 139, David Fisher (UKIP) 1,444, Shirley Hosell (Lab)* 2,498, Sadie Smith (LD) 650, Hilary Taylor (Con) 1,557. Lab hold

Great Bridge
Peter Allen (Lab)* 2,240, Ray Crawford (UKIP) 1,548, Kate King (Green) 138, Steve Simcox (Con) 863. Lab hold

Greets Green and Lyng
Michael Allen (Green) 135, Nick Hanney (UKIP) 971, Gurcharan Sidhu (Lab)* 2,811, John Vickers (Con) 611. Lab hold

Hateley Heath
Pat Davies (Lab)* 2,803, Lyn Horton (UKIP) 1,508, Neil Price (Green) 134, Sandra Vickers (Con) 784. Lab hold

Langley
Brian Crockett (UKIP) 1,314, Yvonne Davies (Lab)* 2,573, Derran Stokes (Con) 1,004, Jayne Wilkinson (Green) 174. Lab hold

Newton
David Hosell (Lab)* 2,674, Steve Latham (UKIP) 1,292, Tony Ward (Con) 1,608. Lab hold

Old Warley
Trevor Crumpton (Lab)* 2,599, Bryan Manley-Green (LD) 186, John McHard (Con) 1,670, Baljinder Singh (UKIP) 1,028, Theresa Yates (Green) 274. Lab hold

Oldbury
Suzanne Hartwell (Lab)* 3,255, Aaron Luxton (Con) 964, David Westwood (UKIP) 1,007, Katie Young (Green) 226. Lab hold

Princes End
Steve Jones (Lab)* 1,784, Ric Keeling (UKIP) 1,608, Keith Vaughan (Con) 869. Lab hold

Rowley
Zac Colledge (Con) 1,325, Clive Hayward (UKIP) 1,477, Barbara Price (Lab)* 2,483. Lab hold

Smethwick
Stephanie Buckman (Green) 345, Keith Davies (Lab)* 3,621,Jitendra Maini (UKIP) 862, Suki Nandra (Con) 605. Lab hold

Soho and Victoria
Umar Azeemi (UKIP) 292, Roger Horton (Lab)* 4,506, Sedouh LeGrand (Green) 225, Dan Mathias (Con) 463. Lab hold

St Paul's
Zahoor Ahmed (Lab)* 4,487, Satwinder Attri (UKIP) 482, Richard Toye (Con) 698, Antony Wilkinson (Green) 257. Lab hold

Tipton
Donald Griffiths (Con) 1,113, Syeda Khatun (Lab)* 2,715, Mike Stanyer (UKIP) 1,589. Lab hold

Tividale
Lorraine Ashman (Lab)* 2,447, Ben Bebbington (Green) 142, Kevin O'Keefe (UKIP) 1,445, John Stockall (Con) 1,052. Lab hold

Wednesbury North
Elaine Costigan (Lab)* 2,814, Heather Nightingale (Con) 1,125, Mark Redding (Green) 123, Les Trumpeter (UKIP) 1,097. Lab hold

Wednesbury South
Olwen Jones (Lab)*, 2,769, Jane Keeling (UKIP) 1,511, Michael Middleton (Con) 1,021. Lab hold

West Bromwich Central
Bawa Dhallu (Lab)* 3,696, Margaret Macklin (Con) 930, Aldo Mussi (Green) 184, Jasbinder Rama (UKIP) 747 Lab hold

Coseley East
Martin Duffield (Con) 1,399, Jon Hartless (Green) 159, Melvyn Mottram (Lab)* 2,276, Craig Winyard (UKIP) 1,684. Lab hold

Cradley and Wollescote
Richard Body (Lab)* 2,602, Alan Hopwood (Con) 1,704, Dennis Neville (Green) 218, Lee Sargeant (UKIP) 1,427. Lab hold

Hayley Green and Cradley South
Michael Forsyth (UKIP) 1,222, Macolm Freeman (Lab) 1,840, Jeff Hill (Con)* 2,879, Colin Royle (Green) 242, Adrian Turner (Independent) 366. Con hold

Quarry Bank and Dudley Wood
Martin Cotterell (Green) 259, Jackie Cowell (Lab)* 2,072, Dean Horton (UKIP) 1,750, Tim Wood (Con) 1,660. Lab hold

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Vaccinate against whopping cough plea

PREGNANT women in Sandwell are being encouraged to protect themselves and their unborn babies against the risk of pertussis – most commonly known as whooping cough.

Whooping cough is a highly contagious bacterial infection of the lungs and airways.

The condition usually begins with a persistent dry and irritating cough that progresses to intense bouts of coughing.

The gasping for breath after one of these coughing bouts causes a distinctive 'whooping' noise.

Whooping cough affects all ages, but newborns and infants under three months of age are at highest risk of severe complications and death.

In the UK, all pregnant women are offered vaccination against whooping cough when they are 28-38 weeks pregnant.

Getting vaccinated while pregnant could help to protect your baby from developing whooping cough in the first few weeks of life as the mother passes immunity on to her unborn child, protecting the new baby until they receive their first whooping cough vaccination at two months old.

Jyoti Atri, director of public health at Sandwell Council, said: "If you are pregnant, getting vaccinated is the best way you can protect your baby against whooping cough."

For more information visit www.nhs.uk/conditions/whooping-cough or for advice on being vaccinated, speak to your midwife or GP.

New York flight service is praised

A NEW daily direct flight between New York and Birmingham has been lauded as an important link.

It will provide almost 100,000 seats per year between Birmingham and JFK airports with companies like JLR, JCB, and Kraft able to benefit from greater connectivity to the USA.

The US is the number one country for Aerospace meaning there will be greater scope for manufacturers in the Midlands looking to export.

Paul Kehoe, Birmingham Airport's chief executive, said: "This new route will not only create more capacity to this vibrant US business and tourist destination, it will also broaden connectivity and choice from the Midlands with American Airlines across North America and Canada."

Apartments plan at ex-homes site

TWELVE apartments could be built to breathe new life into a former housing site in West Bromwich.

Applicant Gurmit Singh has lodged proposals with Sandwell Council for the plot of land off Witton Lane.

Filming starts on Lenny Henry drama

Sparks fly as the crew films the foundry

FILM crews have arrived in the Black Country as cameras are turned on the region for a new drama penned by comic Lenny Henry.

The Dudley-born star has written a semi-biographical script for a new BBC show about his hometown.

Cameras have now started rolling to shoot scenes for the show, named Danny And The Human Zoo.

It tells the fictionalised account of Lenny Henry's life as a working-class teenager in 1970s Dudley.

The main character is Danny Fearon, a talented impressionist, and his working-class Jamaican family, as he rises to fame as a stand-up comedian.

Film crews arrived at well known manufacturer and iron castings company Thomas Dudley to shoot scenes. Many shots were filmed inside the company's recently acquired foundry on the Vaughan Trading Estate, in Dudley Port, Tipton.

Producers had been looking for an authentic looking factory floor where Danny starts work as a youngster.

Although the popular comic was not on set when filming took place bosses said they were delighted to be part of the show. The 56-year-old has been a guest of the company over the years helping to open a new £4.5 million production line in 2012.

Thomas Dudley's marketing manager Andy Burton said: "Lenny had worked in a factory for a while growing up and they wanted an older looking factory setting for filming.

"Obviously we were only too happy to be part of it."

Kascion Franklin will play Danny with Lenny playing his father Samson and Cecilia Noble his mother Myrtle. Richard Wilson also appears.

Jobs on the horizon in lorry sales firm move

AROUND a dozen jobs will be created after plans to transform a disused car park in Moxley as a site for commercial vehicle sales were given the nod.

Tipton-based C&W Commercials, which sells lorries and specialist vehicles such as ready-mixed concrete lorries, plans to use the land at the corner of Bull Lane and Western Way as its new base.

The site was used as a 120 space staff car park for the former Wessons Foundry on the opposite side of Bull Lane which has been demolished.

A small sales office will also be based there under the new plans.

A total of 11 jobs are expected to be created, including six full-time roles and five part-time jobs mainly for delivery drivers.

The plans have been given the go-ahead by Walsall Council. The foundry closed in 2009 and the land has been unused for several years.

It then became a hot spot for fly-tipping and metal theft

The firm said years of neglect had left the area in a poor and overgrown condition – but said the land had potential to benefit the future of the business.

Parked

The company plans to do the majority of sales over the internet or telephone and it is thought there would be no more than five visitors per working day.

Vehicles would be parked ready to demonstrate or test drive and there would be no vehicle repairs or dismantling carried out.

Rubbish and debris would be removed from the site and security lighting columns would be reinstated after the existing ones were cut off by thieves.

David MacMullen, from Halesowen-based MacMullen Associates Ltd, the planning agent, said: "Because most of the commercial vehicles will simply remain stored on site until sold, and employee numbers, around 11 in total, are much smaller than during Wesson's ownership, traffic generation will be significantly less than under the previous use.

C&W Commercials are one of the largest independent commercial vehicle dealers in the UK. The family business formed in 2002 and it now specialises predominantly in the sale of used trucks to customers both at home and abroad.

John Mcstay, Project Manager for FWA Conservation and MD Chris Maryon

The bandstand in Lightwoods Park, which is subject to a £5.2m revamp

Work on revamp of park begins

WORK to bring a Grade II listed bandstand back to life as part of a £5.2 million revamp of Lightwoods House and Park has begun.

It will see the much-loved bandstand restored to how it would have looked when it first stood in the park in 1903.

Scaffolding has been put up around the site by contractors Fairhurst Ward Abbots. The project will also see Lightwoods House, which dates back to 1791, returned to community use.

Deputy council leader Steve Eling said: "It's great that we are starting to see things happening in the park. It will be great when it's all finished."

A tea room will be created and exhibition space provided on the ground floor of the building. On the first floor, there will be rooms for the community, conferences and weddings with the upper floor dedicated to commercial office space.

Restoration will also be carried out on drinking fountains and the Shakespeare Garden, while the plant nursery will be turned into a horticultural training centre.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Police pledging action on beggars

BEGGARS are being targeted by police in Bearwood following complaints.

Police say concerns have been raised about beggars near Aldi, in Bearwood Road, and in the store car park.

A force spokesman said: "We engage positively with anyone begging and conduct a needs assessment with them to see if they have housing, access to benefits and any requirement for alcohol or drug support services.

"If we are satisfied there are sufficient measures in place to safeguard the individual, only then will we take enforcement action."

ABC debut album to be performed

SHEFFIELD pop legends ABC will be performing its debut album The Lexicon of Love in its entirety in Birmingham.

The band, whose sole remaining founder member is singer Martin Fry, will be in action at Birmingham Symphony Hall on November 9 as part of a five-date tour.

ABC will be accompanied by the Southbank Sinfonia Orchestra, conducted by Anne Dudley, for the concerts.

The Lexicon of Love topped the charts on its release in 1982.

School choir will open art festival

AN annual art and craft festival returns to Quinton on May 15. The three-day event, hosted by Quinton Methodist Church, will be formally opened on May 16 at 10.30am by the Lightwoods School Choir.

It will feature a display of paintings and drawings by artists from across the West Midlands and woodwork, weaving and craft demonstrations.

For youngsters there will be a painting and craft session from 11.30am on May 16.

Figures show 95 police officers suspended

A TOTAL of 95 police officers and PCSOs have been suspended by West Midlands Police over the past five years, official figures have revealed.

Of these, 81 were male and 14 female, 73 were white, 15 had Asian origin and seven were black.

The overall figure includes the 22 offices who are currently suspended – 16 white officers, two black and four Asian. Suspensions are reviewed every 28 days and follow allegations of gross misconduct or criminal proceedings.

Silos relocation bid

PLANS to move two 30ft silos at a factory on the Tipton/Wednesbury border have been lodged. Sandwell Council asked KTC Edibles to stop work on the structures following complaints they were towering over homes. Now the firm has asked to move the silos to another part of the site.

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IN MY VIEW
with Mark Andrews

Why defeat at election is difficult to swallow

IMMEDIATELY after the BBC exit poll predicted that the Liberal Democrats were on course to lose dozens of seats at the General Election, former party leader Paddy Ashdown responded: "If this exit poll is right, I will publicly eat my hat."

Not to be outdone, former Labour spin doctor Alastair Campbell announced he would eat his kilt.

So, given that we all know that politicians never break their promises, we can all look forward to a lot of clothes-eating over the coming few days.

Although in the case of Mr Campbell, I do make one request.

Yes I know what the old Scottish tradition is, but on this occasion nobody will hold it against you if you choose to break with convention.

Please, please Alastair, make sure you wear some underpants.

□□□□□

ONE of the strangest, and most poignant scenes of the past few days was watching the VE Day service on Friday, where Prime Minister David Cameron joined soon-to-be-ex party leaders Nick Clegg and Ed Miliband, as well as Democratic Unionist leader Peter Robinson and the SNP's Nicola Sturgeon in laying their wreaths at the cenotaph.

What did these people say to one another? Just hours before, they had been fighting to the bitter end for their differing objectives, and using some pretty colourful imagery along the way.

And there they were, all facing very different futures after the public had delivered its verdict, and in two cases representing their political parties for the very last time.

I actually found it rather touching, and will confess to a little grudging respect to Messrs Miliband and Clegg for conducting themselves with such dignity.

It can't have been easy appearing so publicly with their opponents after such an uncomfortable night.

But serves as a reminder of how fortunate we are to live in a country where political opponents will graciously put on a united front when it comes to honouring our dead.

When it comes to having a pop at the political classes, I love to have a pop as much as the next man, but we are all very privileged that we have the freedom to do that.

Seventy years ago, Britain celebrated a triumph of freedom and democracy over narrow authoritarianism, of free and robust debate over intimidation and suppression.

Whatever your views on the outcome of the election, we should all be grateful that we had the opportunity to take part in it.

And acknowledge the role of those brave soldiers who ensured it was possible.

Iwona Stachura sorts out the stock at Cash4Clothes

Staff sift through clothes brought in by Chris Haynes

The Cash4Clothes unit in Hollies Park Road, Cannock

Cash in on clothes to join a growing trend

An entrepreneur has fashioned a recycling initiative which is now becoming big business. **MARION BRENNAN** reports

"PEOPLE try little tricks, like wetting the clothes so that they weigh more, but mostly customers are fine. We get all sorts of labels, from Primark to Armani. We're only concerned that they're rewearable."

So says Christian Farnell, chief executive of Cash4Clothes which now has 30 outlets across the UK, mainly in the Midlands, in the ever-growing textile recycling industry.

Charity shops, eBay, textile banks – today there are more ways than ever to get rid of your unwanted clothes, and the newest trend, which sees people getting paid for their cast-offs, is now big business.

In 12 months Cash4Clothes has paid out more than £3 million to the public for their unwanted garments. In Cannock alone in the last four years that figure is £5.5m.

"It's a very big business and it employs a lot of people in different countries," says the 31-year-old, of Willenhall, a former Great Wyrley High School and Cannock College student.

Cash4Clothes chief executive officer Christian Farnell, aged 31, from Willenhall in the trading unit at Cannock

Truckloads

The company pays 50p a kilogram for textiles, which generally works out at a fiver a bin bag, which it then sells on to customers in Eastern Europe. One trader in the Czech Republic has 12 shops, another has 11 stores in Poland and Slovenia. Around 16 truckloads, each with 18 tons of clothes aboard, leave their HQ in the Hollies Business Park, Cannock every month headed for the continent.

At the end of the journey, the East European merchants pick out the best clothes – the loads also include bags, shoes, belts and bedwear – to sell in their shops, then bale the remainder and sells it on to traders in Africa.

So whatever option people choose, their old clothes, even those freely donated, will generally end up in the hands of a specialist group or textile merchants.

Cash4Clothes was started in 2010 by Darren Coggins, born and raised in Stafford, who launched European Textile Recycling Limited 23 years ago.

The canny entrepreneur, now 49, started out in house clearance, working mainly with local councils. Always one step ahead, he moved into textile banks, operating 500 sites at the height of the business before selling to JMP Wilcox, one of the UK's largest textile reclaimers.

Christian Farnell, whose CV includes In-Shops in Cannock and working as operations manager for Tesco, looking after 300 stores in Poland and Hungary, describes his boss as 'very forward-thinking'. He said: "He flipped the textile banks idea on its head. Instead of paying the council for the use of their tip sites, he pays the public. If they want, they can track what happens to their clothes, where they go, who benefits. He was the first to do it – others have followed but he's the biggest."

Research shows that in Kenya alone more than five million jobs and ancillary posts have been created in the second-hand clothing industry, from people unloading the containers, tailors altering the clothes, stallholders selling at market and landlords leasing premises.

The firm's Midland interests include shops Dudley, Kidderminster, Rugeley, Lichfield, Stafford, Stone, Walsall, Wolverhampton, Willenhall, and Aldridge.

All sorts of clothes are accepted, as long as they are clean and undamaged. "I think things are changing," says Christian. "People are recycling more and more. Everyone's got clothes that are too big or too small that they want toget rid of and if they know they can get paid for it, they're even more inclined to do it.

"They can still choose to give the money we pay them to charity. I think the public are split. Either they want to the feel-good factor of giving to charity shops or they're not that way inclined.

"We set up in places where people are less well-off and might need the money.

"Sometimes people come in because they haven't got enough cash to top up the electricity meter. We still do a lot of work with charity shops, they buy stock from us, we have a lot of trading arms. We just provide another option."

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100 reasons for celebrations

MAY I though your letters column let people know that Langley parish are this year celebrating the 100th anniversary of their church of St John and St Michael in Rood End. The church was built during the First World War after the previous church was requisitioned by the government to be used as a munitions factory.

We are celebrating throughout the year and started by delivering 100 Easter eggs to local houses before Easter and we are aiming for many other '100's during the year such as 100 cans of food for the local food bank and 100 bags of rubbish collected from the local streets.

We also have some key events during the year where we would love to see anyone who has had any previous association with the parish.

A garden party and barbecue takes place on July 4 and on September 20, the Bishop of Birmingham is coming to share our special morning celebration service at 10.30am. This will be followed by a look at our history. We will have our registers out for people to find their baptism and or wedding record and we will have displays and photos of our history.

This will be followed by a lunch. Finally, at end of the day we are hoping to persuade St Michael's school band to come and play a concert which is really appropriate as St Michael's School has a long history with our parish.

We would love anyone who has had any links to the parish and church to come along to one or all of the events. Further information can be obtained from our office on 0121 544 1988.

REV NICK PELLING
Vicar of Oldbury, Langley and Londonderry

Whistling shouldn't be harmful

I NOTICED with interest the story of the girl who reported workmen for giving her a wolf-whistle and the police are looking in to it.

I would have thought the police had much more important things to deal with. This is not anything sexual and surely should be taken as a compliment.

I am 79 now, but I remember when I was in my teens getting wolf whistles, and I told my uncle about it and he said 'Don't worry about that, the time to worry is when you don't get wolf whistles anymore', and we just had a laugh about it.

So in my opinion, I think it's 'much ado about nothing' and should be taken I'm sure as it was meant – a compliment.

A WILLIAMS
Tipton

Democracy comes with little choice

WELL done Charlotte Church. We need celebrities to stand up and be counted as politicians don't listen to the ordinary people, we are just cannon fodder and backs to the mill.

Our lives are counted in profit not quality, and Charlotte is right. Why should the people of Wales be second class citizens?

If jobs can be bought in Northern Ireland under the threat of violence and money per head be more than the Welsh in Scotland then surely the Welsh have a right to be annoyed.

Democracy is about choice, but it seems there is little choice or fairness in this electoral system. Little wonder so many people are really, really angry.

S T VAUGHAN
Birmingham

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

POST
Sandwell Chronicle,
Chronicle Editorial,
51-53 Queen Street
Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES

EMAIL
sandwell.chronicle@expressandstar.co.uk

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

Baggies under fire

I FEEL that our friends at West Bromwich Albion, in particular their manager Mr Pulis, are showing a distinct lack of class in their apparent desire to strip-mine Wolverhampton Wanderers of their best players.

I can accept that Bakary Sako is a free agent now and perhaps does not fully appreciate the bitter rivalry that exists between West Brom and Wolves.

But Benik Afobe is a contracted Wolves player who has spent not six months at the club, and as such should not be the subject of the kind of unsettling antics that West Brom seem to think they can engage in without censure.

Since they seem set on treating Wolves as their feeder club down the road, I'd like to tip them off that we have a fine goalkeeper in Carl Ikeme and a potential future England international defender in Danny Batth.

J BRODIE
Chapel Ash

Shrinking army fear

SOME time ago I wrote a letter to your paper about our vanishing army. Ever since war ended in 1945, our regiments as we used to know them, like the Warwicks, Staffords, etc, have all been amalgamated. Two to three, even up to seven regiments have been rolled into one.

Well now they have done it again. When will it stop? The Queens Royal Lancers merged into the 9/12 Lancers. As I said before, amalgamation is a crafty way of depleting our army.

F H JENNINGS
Birmingham

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Councils' child protection vow after damning report

COUNCIL bosses across the Black Country insisted changes have been made following a damning report by West Midlands Police.

Four local authorities, Dudley, Walsall, Sandwell and Wolverhampton, were criticised in the document. The major concerns related to lack of information into the number of at-risk children, with police comparing the situation to that seen in Rotherham.

But Linda Sanders, strategic director Wolverhampton City council, said child sexual exploitation was an 'absolute priority' for the authority.

She outlined changes made since the report was compiled last October, including a tracker system to monitor cases and sharing of intelligence.

She said: "Over the last 12 months we have significantly strengthened our policies and procedures to improve data collection, the identification of victims and the way we work with partners to protect them."

Hotspots

Sandwell has child abuse 'hotspots' which police and the local authority are monitoring in Smethwick, Rowley Regis and Tipton. Bosses are working with fast food outlets, taxi firms and hotels to identify any risks.

Council chief executive Jan Britton said: "We are working with other councils and agencies including the police to understand the scale of the problem to make sure we protect children and punish the perpetrators.

"We now screen all vulnerable children and young people to identify whether they may be at risk of sexual exploitation. All council employees are undergoing training in how to identify child sexual exploitation and what to do if they suspect anything."

Youngsters to compete for honours

THOUSANDS of Sandwell schoolchildren will put their competitive streak to the test next week.

From May 18 to 22, some 5,778 primary school youngsters will vie for honours in the Engage to Compete Schools Competition Week.

The children will be timed as they complete three simple tasks – including throwing and catching, running and jumping . Their results will be uploaded onto a leader board where they can see how they've done compared to other schools in the area.

Also competing will be 4,532 children from 24 schools in Tower Hamlets, London.

Families across the borough can get active in a free fun day to celebrate West Bromwich Leisure Centre's first birthday, on Sunday, May 30, from 10am to 4pm. Activities include swimming, face painting, bouncy castle, soft play and taster sessions.

Legend Super Bob scores with fans

Harley and Hudson Butterworth meet legend Bob Taylor with Miss Black Country finalist Charlotte Homer

WEST Bromwich Albion fans packed into a bar in Cradley Heath to meet club legend Bob Taylor.

Taylor, known to Baggies fans as 'Super Bob', was at Jay's Bar in Graingers Lane to host a question and answer session – and also got up on the karaoke.

The striker, whose 131 goals put him eighth on the list of the club's all-time top scorers, was at the bar to support family friend Charlotte Homer's bid to become Miss Black Country 2015. Around 70 fans snapped up tickets to meet the star, who spoke about his goalscoring exploits during his time at the club.

Charlotte, aged 22, said: "He was great, everyone loved him. He did a talk for half an hour.

"He spent quite a while chatting to fans. He signed some people's stomachs. They loved it."

Taylor surprised a few supporters by doing his best Neil Diamond impersonation on the karaoke, singing one of his favourites Sweet Caroline.

Miss Black Country will be crowned on May 24. As part of her duties as a finalist, Charlotte, of Awbridge Road, Netherton, has been tasked with raising funds for children's charity Beauty with a Purpose.

Around £350 was raised from Sunday's event. She said: "It was great. I'm glad everyone enjoyed it."

TV housing show centres on borough

A BBC One show championing consumer rights is heading to the Black Country. The Housing Enforcers, featuring Matt Allwright, will be visiting Sandwell.

The programme, screened on a weekday at 9.15am, will see the presenter confronting dodgy landlords, lazy tenants, nightmare neighbours and coming to the aid of those in need.

In total, more than eight million people rent their home from the council or a private landlord. In the show, Mr Allwright joins council teams as a trainee housing officer.

Deputy council leader Steve Eling said: "Our officers work extremely hard on behalf of tenants and their families, who rent in the private sector, to ensure they have a safe and warm home to live in, which meets their needs.

"The vast majority of private landlords take their responsibility to tenants very seriously but sometimes we have to intervene to make sure that problems are sorted out.

"These can range from being relatively minor, such as broken fixtures and fittings to more major issues such as defective gas and electrical installations.

"I am sure the programme will give viewers a valuable insight as to what is involved to ensure the safety of our tenants."

Last rites as church now faces demolition

A BLACK Country church which was forced to close due to its six-figure restoration bill, could be knocked down.

Plans for the demolition of St Luke's in Cradley Heath have been submitted to Sandwell Council. The church closed after almost 170 years of worship last October because of escalating repair costs.

Gill's fairway to give it a go at club

From left: Avril Richards, Gill Dean, Rita Nichols with her guide dog Charlie, Stephanie Haynes and Margaret Hawkesford

JUST over a year ago Gill Dean joined a group of like-minded visually impaired people on an ActivEyes 'give it a go' event. Little did she know how this introduction to golf would impact her life.

Gill took part in a pilot provided by the Mark Butler Golf Academy in Sedgley.

Mark and Nicky his wife warmly welcome those with visual impairments to their club. With weekly tuition it wasn't long before Gill realised this was the sport for her.

Gill's sight problems haven't held her back. A career in social services and a Braille teacher, Gill packed in more than most before her retirement.

On completion of the pilot Gill immediately joined as a full member. Committee member Stephanie Haynes of West Bromwich's Dartmouth Golf Club heard about Gill and invited her to a special ladies day just for her. Gill was both surprised and thrilled.

Stephanie said: "We hope that by creating this opportunity and sharing Gill's inspirational story that other visually impaired people interested in golf will get in touch."

Woodland faces axe as homes on the way

TREASURED woodland in the Black Country is to be torn up to make way for housing – despite fierce opposition from more than 1,000 people.

Campaigners have lost their battle to stop homes being built on the Thimblemill Recreation Ground in Smethwick after a planning inspector overturned Sandwell Council's decision to refuse the plans.

Furious councillors say the decision goes against democracy.

Developers have faced a long battle to chop down the woodland, with the row dragging on for more than a year.

Costly

But Selbourne Homes can now begin work on 13 luxury homes after council bosses ruled out applying for a potentially costly judicial review.

Planning committee members originally refused the application and ward councillor Richard Marshall, who led the protest, made his feelings clear.

He said: "This is a real sickener. I'm gutted, and very annoyed. This represents the last remaining

By Richard Guttridge

piece of natural woodland in the whole of Smethwick, and I don't think due consideration was given to that.

"There are dozens of potential building sites within easy walking distance from here, but these people choose to run their bulldozers through an area of natural undeveloped woodland which contains bats, owls and a wide variety of insect species."

Deputy council leader Steve Eling previously said he felt the process of 'faceless civil servants' being able to overrule elected councillors was 'obscene'.

Councillor Eling, who represents the nearby Abbey ward, said:"Residents feel their views have been totally disregarded by someone with no accountability."

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COMPETITION

Flying high with chance to win tickets

READERS have a chance to take off to the RAF Cosford Air Show – for free! The Chronicle series has teamed up with the organisers to give eight readers the chance to win a pair of adult tickets to the spectacular show on Sunday, June 14.

As well as more than five hours of exciting flying displays including a joint Spitfire/Typhoon display, and of course the world famous Red Arrows the show will include ground exhibits from the Royal Air Force and other services and three hangars full of exciting interactive displays and exhibitions.

Along with the chance to sit in the cockpit of the iconic Jaguar aircraft, still based at RAF Cosford, there will be a unique line-up of Search and Rescue helicopters and the iconic TSR 2 jet. The flying displays will feature the best of the modern day Royal Air Force, classic aircraft and set pieces and will also pay tribute to other special anniversaries including the 70th Anniversary of Victory in Europe, the 90th Anniversary of the University Air Squadrons and the 50th Anniversary of the cancellation of the TSR 2 prototype supersonic aircraft.

RAF Cosford is the largest aviation event in the Midlands and is renowned for the huge variety of attractions on the ground with an indoor craft fair, funfair and this year an exciting 'Victory Village' authentically recreating a village green street party in 1945.

All tickets for the 2015 show will be advance sale only and all profits are donated to local and service charities. Details on www.cosfordairshow.co.uk,

COSFORD AIR SHOW 2015

HOW TO ENTER

To stand a chance of winning a pair of tickets simply answer the following question

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Ex-teacher helps roll back years at reunion

Sisters Pat and Gill Carter with organisers Anita Barnes and Wendy Squire with an old photograph from their schooldays in Tividale

Val Bailey and Brian Dudley with a photo of the 1950 school athletics team

FORMER Tividale classmates thought they really had gone back to school at their latest reunion when their ex-teacher walked through the door.

Each year old friends from the area's schools meet up and share their memories of lessons, sports and play.

This time around organisers were 'overwhelmed' with more than 70 turning up to reminisce about bygone days. And among the new faces was former Tividale Primary School teacher Ken Jones.

Organiser Wendy Squires, said: "We were delighted to see Ken when he arrived this year. I remember him being around 10 years older than me so he must be 80 something now. It was great that he made the effort.

"He brought along some fabulous photographs from his time at Tividale Primary which everyone was really keen to take a look at.

"I had a really lovely time at school. I really enjoyed my time there and I think from speaking to others that feeling is mutual among a lot of us who come to these reunions.

"I suppose the main difference is that it was not as lenient as they are with the children now. You used to get rapped on the knuckles. Although that was not me, I remember it being one or two of the boys who were more likely to get in trouble."

Among those who attend the gatherings, now in their seventh year, are former students from five schools in the area. They are: Tividale Secondary Modern, Tividale Junior, Tividale Comp, Regent Road School and City Road School.

Those who made it to Tividale Football Club shared old photographs including one of a sports day relay.

Numbers attending have increased year on year and there have been some heart-warming moments.

Two years ago Mrs Squires, 74, played cupid when she brought together former classmates Jack Lloyd and Christine Robinson, who have since gone to live in Spain.

And on Tuesday there was another special moment which reminded Mrs Squires why she continues to organise the reunions. She added: "There was a couple there who had not met since their school days and I looked over towards them at the end and they were embracing.

"They had not met for so many years but they came to the reunion and realised who each other was. That is what it is all about."

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We should put our veterans first

DANIEL WAINWRIGHT
Political Editor

POLITICIANS are often accused of living in their own little bubble and no more so than when it came to VE Day.

The 70th anniversary was overshadowed by the outcome of the General Election.

Had the date been down to a snap decision by the Prime Minister to call it then that might have been in some way forgiveable. But it was etched in stone like one of Ed Miliband's pledges years ago by the passing of the Fixed Term Parliaments Act.

Ever since the Coalition came to power in 2010 we have known that the date of the General Election would be May 7, 2015.

Dominated

But we have also known ever since May 8, 1945 the date on which we would mark seven decades since Nazi Germany's surrender. The brave men and women who sacrificed everything so that we may live as a free nation deserved better than this.

Of course the General Election was essential. Of course it was absolutely right that the coverage in the news be dominated by the question of who will form our government.

But I find it difficult to accept that all those experts and politicians, all those people so well paid to ensure the British constitution is upheld, failed to tackle this and act accordingly to ensure VE Day would be appropriately marked.

The Queen at the end of a Service of Thanksgiving at Westminster Abbey

Because if the Fixed Term Parliaments Act is not repealed, then the next General Election will be held on the same day in 2020, the eve of the 75th anniversary.

Age has begun to take its inevitable toll on the soldiers and servicemen to whom we owe our way of life. Many may not be here for the 75th or 80th anniversaries. But this country made a promise that we would remember them.

To think that we are so ungrateful as to begin to forget them while we still have the honour of having them among us does not bear thinking about.

The Fixed Term Parliaments Act was meant to introduce a form of stability but it's actually very messy. Had David Cameron been clinging to power as predicted, rather than the result we got he might have wanted a second election. And whether you like the Tories or not, it would have been hugely complicated to try to trigger it.

One way would have been for a motion of no confidence to be passed. If, within 14 days of that, no-one could have got a motion of confidence passed in the existing or new government, then an election would have had to follow 17 working days later. The only other way permitted was if more than two thirds of the House of Commons voted to call an election.

That would have meant 434 of all 650 MPs, not just two thirds of those present at the time. And you can imagine how MPs in marginal constituencies would have felt about facing another campaign if they only just about crossed the line.

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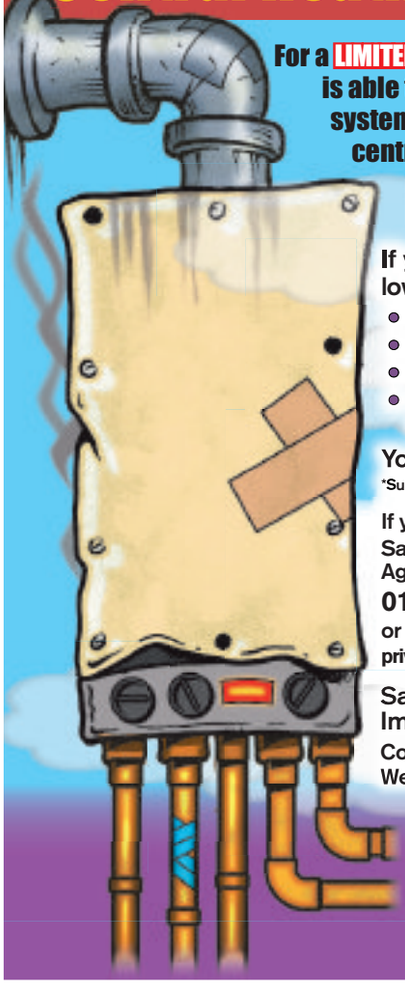

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Sanctuary in appeal to find new home for cats

A CAT Sanctuary is looking for new homes for two kittens found wandering the streets.

Joyce Clark, animal welfare nurse at Wednesbury Cat Sanctuary, is desperate to find a home for kittens Toby and Jamie, who were found on the streets of West Bromwich.

Mrs Clark said: "They were found with their mother and two sisters and were being fed by someone on the street.

"One of the kittens was taken ill by the RSPCA who informed me that she had been poisoned. She sadly died in their care.

"The mother and the remaining sister went missing shortly after, so we took Toby and Jamie in."

Mrs Clark believes the kittens may be around the ages of six to seven months old.

She added: "We have had them for around two months now. They are both so friendly; they just need a good home.

"They have both been neutered and had health checks.

"I would not recommend them going to a young family though; as they are young they still need an awful lot of attention."

Mrs Clark has been running her sanctuary for 28 years. Anyone that can provide a home for the cats call 0121 502 5027.

Joyce Clarke with cats Jamie and Toby that are looking for a new home

HGV driver crashes through hoarding

A LORRY ploughed through advertising hoarding and ended up in a building supplies yard in Wednesbury.

The truck left the road, smashed through two billboards and a fence to land partially on the yard at Jewson builders merchants on A41 Black Country New Road. Paramedics checked the driver over but he was not injured.

Police are now investigating the cause of the smash which happened on Tuesday (May 5) at around 6.45am.

The road between the Patent Shaft island to the Steel roundabout was shut for three hours due to safety fears over the state of the precarious advertising board and motorists forced to take alternative routes.

West Midlands Police spokesman Catherine Hickman said: "No-one was injured but the road was closed until 9.30am, once the damaged billboard had been made safe."

Petrol and car thief jailed for 18 months

A SERIAL thief who stole cars and petrol from across the Black Country has been locked up.

By Carl Jackson

Jamie Brookes, 27, fitted stolen licence plates to vehicles before targeting garages throughout the region in nine raids last year.

The father-of-three pinched petrol and diesel worth £720 between July and September at stations in Oldbury and Great Bridge as well as Quinton, Great Barr and other places in Birmingham.

Even when Brookes was arrested on suspicion of theft on September 22, the bold bilker went out the very next day to strike again.

He was jailed for 18 months at Wolverhampton Crown Court.

Brookes was in a stolen Citroen worth £2,000 when he and an accomplice drove to NJC Motors in Smethwick to steal an Astra valued at more than £6,000.

Insurance

He claimed he was carrying out the thefts on someone else's instructions and was being paid each time he did it.

Brookes, from Poplar Street, Bearwood, was also convicted for a further six counts relating to driving without insurance and a licence for which he was disqualified from driving for two years.

He appeared at the sentencing hearing via video-link from HMP Hewell in Worcestershire. He was handed a nine-week prison term for separate petrol theft offences last year.

Judge Amjad Nawaz said it 'beggars belief' that magistrates chose to sentence Brookes for those crimes instead of sending the matter to crown court for all of the offences to be dealt with together.

He added: "When you were arrested you went out the next day and committed the same offence.

"That shows you are somebody who simply will not comply with any order given to you.

"The sheer volume of your offending means there is no other option than an immediate custodial sentence."

Jasuir Mann, defending, said Brookes's main incentive to steal was for his own financial gain adding he had left school without any qualifications and had found it hard to keep down steady employment.

He added: "He is a man easily led by others and by the age of 27 he should have sufficient backbone to say to these people he no longer wants to associate with them.

"The reality is he has given into pressures. He has also been a willing participant but not a man that instigates things on his own."

Facebook help after Carcraft job losses

TWO former directors of Carcraft, which went into administration last month, have set up a Facebook page to help some of those made redundant find new work.

About 60 at the Carcraft site in Darlaston Road, Wednesbury, were among the more than 500 that lost their jobs at its 10 sites around the country.

Andy Coulthurst, who was Carcraft sales director until 2008, and Robin Bridge, who was chief executive until last year, are using their contacts in the industry to help the newly unemployed through www.facebook.com/carcraftpeople – and KBL Employment Law has also set up a Carcraft Redundancy Support Page on Facebook.

The pair have had about 80 CVs from former workers and 100 job advertisements from across the car dealership industry for a variety of roles.

Carcraft had made a loss of more than £13 million over 18 months.

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George Woodhall (front left) with the Baggies FA Cup-winning team in 1888

George Woodhall

George Woodhall, back left, with their trophies for the season of 1888

61 goals – Billy Bassett

Help us to spruce up Baggies stars' graves, call from ancestor and Mayor

THEY were both among the first stars of football, and made dozens of appearances for their clubs, also representing their country, earning their well-deserved places in the football history books.

Billy Bassett and George 'Spry' Woodhall both made names for themselves playing for West Bromwich Albion before winning caps for England. Now a call has gone out to the club to ensure their final resting place in West Bromwich is worthy of their achievements on the pitch.

And one local group has now taken matters into their own hands as they plan a clean-up of the churchyard, in which the men were both laid to rest.

Both former players are buried at All Saints Church in All Saints Way where work is under way to clear weeds and overgrown shrubs and spruce up the weather-worn graves. Lifelong Baggies fan Roy

MEMORY LANE

Report by Richard Guttridge

Jones, who is leading the project with the Friends of Old Church Graveyard, believes the pair deserve the best – and is now trying to get the club involved in the project.

Mr Bassett scored 61 times in 261 appearances for Albion between 1886 and 1899.

The winger also had an impressive goals return for the Three Lions, netting eight times in 16 games. His goal record briefly made him one of football's early celebrities towards the end of the 19th century.

Bassett, who was also the first player in the club's history to be sent off, then became chairman in 1908 at a time when the club was facing financial meltdown and helped Albion avoid bankruptcy. At the club's annual general meeting in 1936, he was presented with a silver casket to mark his 50 years of association with Albion.

His son Norman was also involved with the club as a director for 15 years between 1937 and 1952. He remained chairman until his death in 1937 at the age of 68.

Mr Woodhall, meanwhile, made 44 appearances for the Baggies between 1883 and 1892 and also went on to do what is now the unthinkable for a former West Brom player, and play a handful of games for Wolves. He was known for his ability to cross a ball with great accuracy and played well and combined well with other players, including Mr Bassett.

He became the first Black Country-born player to score for his country in 1888 when England played Wales. His goal, England's third of the match, was his country's 100th international goal.

During the same year, he also grabbed the winner in Albion's 2-1 FA Cup final victory over Preston. A member of the Friends group, Margaret Gill, is his great-great granddaughter, while Richie Woodhall, Britain's Olympic gold medal-winning boxer is also a relation.

Mr Jones, aged 71, said the group is hoping to get the club on board with their work to tidy up the churchyard. Ideas so far including carrying out collections for donations outside the Hawthorns.

He added: "We have informed West Bromwich Albion and they have asked us to give them a wish list to present to the board. Jeremy Peace wants to know what's going on and what we want to do.

"We have also put in an appeal to West Bromwich Albion Fanzone on Facebook.

"If we can have buckets by the entrance on a matchday, even if people just put a quid in, if we get 10,000 fans to do it, it would buy us an eternity for that graveyard."

Mr Jones said that as a Baggies supporter, he felt that he should take on the responsibility of restoring the graves to their former glories, as well of those of others in the churchyard.

He said: "Every time I pass the grave I say 'morning Billy'. It's just a silly thing but he deserves it."

Anyone wanting to support the group is asked to search for 'Friends of Old Church Graveyard' on Facebook.

Mayor of Sandwell Derek Rowley, with Margaret Gill

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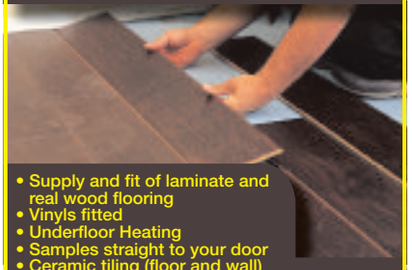
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Right royal birth joy for Polish family

The Hebdynski family, with new arrival

FOR one Tipton mother the birth of Princess Charlotte for the Duchess of Cambridge, will forever have a special meaning as she gave birth to her own bundle of joy at the same time.

Agnieszka Hebdynski, aged 32, of Central Avenue gave birth to a little princess herself after attending City Hospital near Smethwick. And, just like the Duchess of Cambridge, the 8lbs 13oz little girl is her second child. Hers was another late arrival, keeping mum waiting six days longer than expected.

Agnieszka, who moved to this country from Poland with husband Mariusz, aged 29, and daughter Amelia, 11, eight years ago, said: "Everybody at work laughed when I went overdue and said the baby was waiting to arrive on the same day as the royal baby – and they were right."

As someone born outside of England, Agnieszka said the shared birth was extra special. She said: "In Poland we do not have a royal family and so they are a fascination for us. Buckingham Palace was one of the first sights we visited after moving to England and we always take out Polish friends to see it when they come to visit."

Mariusz, a driver and warehouse worker employed at the same Darlaston nuts and bolts factory as his office worker wife, said: "It is a great coincidence and wonderful for our daughter to share her birthday with such an important person for the rest of her life."

FOCUS ON TIPTON

Moving farewell to Burma Star veteran and war hero Walter

By Dominic Bareham

THE life of a Black Country war hero, who received the Burma Star medal for his service in one of the Second World War's most crucial campaigns, was remembered at his funeral.

Walter Carr, who died aged 96, was given a big send-off at Gornal Wood crematorium, with representatives of the Royal British Legion and the Burma Star Association for veterans attending the service.

Walter in uniform

Mr Carr, who was raised in Church Lane in Tipton, served in the Royal Marines between 1939 and 1945 when he was based in Burma as well as the Middle East.

His son Stephen, 65, who lives in Coleford Close, Wordsley, described his father as a family man with a passion for politics. He was also a huge fan of singer Shirley Bassey.

He said: "He was always a man who looked after his family. He always put his family first. He was a good, loving father. He cared for my mum and he was a really good man."

The funeral procession at Gornal Wood crematorium for Walter Carr

Members of the Royal British Legion lead the hearse, during the funeral

His father was born to parents Emma and John Carr and he had a brother Ted and sister Emily.

He attended a school in Tipton before leaving to start work and joined the Royal Marines at the start of the Second World War, though he never served in Europe.

The Burma Star medal received by Mr Carr for his service was a military campaign medal awarded to subjects of the British Commonwealth who served in the brutal Burma campaign between December 1941 and September 1945. The medal was instituted in May 1945 to recognise those who had served in the long campaign, many of whom spent time in Japan's notorious PoW camps.

Ownership of the medal entitles the recipient to be a member of the Burma Star Association, a veterans' organisation for whom the patron is Prince Philip, the Duke Of Edinburgh.

After leaving the military, Mr Carr worked at the Austin car plant in Longbridge before going on to work as a postal worker and at a window framing company before finishing his working life at the Brymill foundry in Tipton. Politics was always his main interest and he was a convenor for a steel workers' union while working at the Brymill.

However, he never took the step of becoming a councillor because his wife Dora was concerned that he would spend too much time away from the family. His son Stephen said he was reluctant to talk about his personal experiences during the war, though 'it was always there' in the background.

He added: "He was a proud man, he loved his country. He had got a strong point of view on many things, but he was always prepared to listen to others." He is survived by his three children – Stephen and his two daughters, Judith Holden, 65 and Betty Jones, 71, both of whom live in Canada. He died on April 13.

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Is this the noisiest band in Britain?

God Damn – Page 19

Clare Teal

See Page 19

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Sat at 7.30pm, £33.50 - £37.50
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Elio Pace performs
Sat at 7.30pm, £15 - £19
Palace Theatre, Redditch, B98 8AE. Call 01527 65203

Take That
Fri, Sat at 7.30pm, £61.20 - £94.20
Genting Arena, Birmingham, B40 1NT. Call 0121 780 4141

Bryan Ferry
Wed at 7.30pm, £35 - £65
Symphony Hall, Birmingham, B1 2EA. Call 0121 780 3333

The Neil Diamond Story
Wed at 7.30pm, £12 - £15.75
Palace Theatre, Redditch, B98 8AE. Call 01527 65203

Gin Annie Band
Fri at 7.30pm, £8.50 - £10
The Robin 2, Bilston, WV14 7LJ. Call 01902 401211

Rock 4 Spon 4
Sat at 7.30pm, £6 - £7
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Cloudbusting
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Alive & Kicking UK
Sat at 7.30pm, £10
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Quadrophenia Night
Sat at 8pm, £14 - £16
Artrix, Slideslow Drive, Bromsgrove, B61 1PQ.
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Marcia Griffiths & Friends
Sat at 9pm, £30.93
O2 Academy Birmingham, B1 1DB. Call 0121 622 8250

J. Cole plus Pusha T, Jhene Aiko
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Slaves
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CoCo & The Butterfields
Sun at 7.30pm, £10
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Brewood Acoustic Club Singers' Night
Thu at 8pm, £2(£1 singers)
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Tom Paxton – 50 Years On
Fri at 7.30pm, £26.50
Birmingham Town Hall, B3 3DQ.
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Sat at 8pm, £10 - £12
mac, Cannon Hill Park, Birmingham, B12 9QH.
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Lichfield Garrick, WS13 6HR.
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Something Else
Fri at 11am, £5
Arena Theatre, Wulfruna Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1SE.
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Ghost
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Wolverhampton Grand Theatre, WV1 1DE.
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Twelve Angry Men
Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu at 7.30pm, Wed at 2.30pm, £10.50 - £27
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Yamato Drummers
Sun at 7.30pm, £16.90 - £30.90
New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham, B5 4DS.
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Dirty Rotten Scoundrels
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The Long Road
Fri, Sat at 7.45pm, Sat at 2.45pm, £6 - £11
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DANCE

35th Anniversary Gala
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Edge15
Fri at 8pm, £10 - £12
Artrix, Bromsgrove, B61 1PQ.
Call 01527 577330

COMEDY

An Evening with Pam Ayres
Fri at 7.30pm, £23 - £23.75
Lichfield Garrick, WS13 6HR.
Call 01543 412121

Thu at 7.30pm, £23 - £23.75
Palace Theatre, Redditch, B98 8AE. Call 01527 65203

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Stafford Gatehouse Theatre, ST16 2LT. Call 01785 254653

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The Robin 2 Record & CD Fair
Sun at 11am - 4pm, Free
The Robin 2, Bilston, WV14 7LJ.
Call 01902 401211

Open Mic Night
Mon at 8.30pm, Free
Katie Fitzgerald's,Wollaston, Stourbridge, DY8 3TB.
Call 01384 374410

Check out full listings in **the ticket** in Friday's Express & Star

Big noise from the Black Country

THE latest big noise out of the Black Country, drum and guitar duo God Damn, will unleash their pure attacking sound in Birmingham on Saturday night — just days after the release of their debut album Vultures.

Wolverhampton's Thom Edward (guitars/vocals) and Ash Weaver (drums) describe themselves as 'rock music for degenerates' with bludgeoning riffs and furiously propulsive percussion.

The band began life in the Black Country as a three-piece, until bassist and founder Dave Copson dropped out due to health reasons. But the duo already have plans to expand into a three-piece again and maybe even beyond that.

They will be in concert on Saturday at the Sunflower Lounge on Smallbrook Queensway, celebrating the release of their fearsome debut on One Little Indian, Bjork's label, this week.

The title track — described as 'ferocious' — will be released as a single on May 25.

God Damn's influences include Nirvana, The Pixies and At The Drive In, whilst they swear allegiance to the 'Seven J's' — Hendrix, Homme, Cash, White, Page, Bonham and Jesse 'The Devil' Hughes, of Eagles of Death Metal.

Their set up has naturally drawn comparisons with Royal Blood and Slaves. They have played shows with the latter, as well as Funeral For A Friend, The Wytches, Eagulls and Turbowolf, among others.

Wolverhampton hard rock duo God Damn, Thom (right) and Ash

"We're a noisy band — we're probably the noisiest band in Britain right now but you can't have heaviness without the lighter touch. Dynamics are important," says Thom.

They described their album Vultures as "everything we hoped for and so much more".

"Broadly speaking, the album explores lyrical themes such as egotism, anti-capitalism, loss," says Thom. "It's important to write each new song different from the last.

"Angry and abrasive is good but you can't do that all the time or you'll go mad."

'A big fan of the great lady's since a tiny tot'

Singer gets Doris's vote

FORMER Wolverhampton student Clare Teal and her Hollywood Orchestra celebrate Doris Day with a tribute to the living legend at Birmingham Town Hall on Saturday.

Yorkshire jazz singer Clare will be revisiting Doris's professional life, from her early days with Les Brown and his Band of Renown to her massive hit songs when Queen of Hollywood and her pop success in the 1960s.

Songs include Secret Love, Move Over Darling, Deadwood Stage and Que Sera Sera. "I've been a big fan of the great lady's from being a tiny tot," says Clare.

Parcel

"I was selling CDs after a gig in Clacton when a smartly dressed woman asked me to sign the CD she had just bought, 'of course, who's it for love?' The answer: Doris Day. I looked up thinking, really – in Clacton? I signed the CD and went on my merry way. Months later I had an email from Annie of Clacton to say Doris had enjoyed my record. A lovely parcel arrived in the post containing a signed CD from Doris herself. This now takes pride of place in the office."

Doris, now 91, lives in retirement in Carmel, California, dedicating much of her energy to animal welfare projects.

Clare became a familiar voice on radio as presenter of BBC Radio 2's Big Band Special. The Skipton lass discovered jazz via her grandmother's record collection and studied music at Wolverhampton Polytechnic (now university) before entering show business singing jingles. She has been associated with Big Band Special for 11 years. See www.thsh.co.uk or call 0121 780 3333 for tickets.

Ghost melodies unchained again

WEST Bromwich Operatic Society are staging a much-loved movie turned musical this week at Wolverhampton's Grand.

WBOS opened with Ghost The Musical last night (Wednesday), based on the Patrick Swayze and Demi Moore movie, and it continues to Saturday. There are 7.30pm performances plus a 2.30pm matinee on Saturday.

The show includes classic scenes from the film about a loving couple not be separated by death thanks to a dodgy psychic.

A spokesperson said: "Our aim as an amateur company has been to continue performing in professional theatres and to keep the standard of productions as high as possible."

Classic courtroom drama at the Grand

AMERICAN courtroom drama Twelve Angry Men stars popular TV actor Jason Merrells as the righteous Juror 8 at Wolverhampton Grand Theatre from Monday to Saturday.

Reginald Rose's play became a movie classic with Henry Fonda in 1957. The revival was a hit at Birmingham Rep with Martin Shaw returning to his home city to play Juror 8. It has since been a West End success with Shaw and Tom Conti.

Jason Merrells, a star of Casualty and Waterloo Road before becoming Emmerdale villain Declan Macey, plays the one juror pitted against 11 with a life at stake.

Totally wired for alt-rock veterans

ALTERNATIVE rock veterans The Fall, the late great John Peel's favourite band, are in concert tonight (Thursday) at Birmingham venue The Institute. The band fronted by Mark E Smith released their 31st album, Sub-Lingual Tablet, on Cherry Red Records on Monday.

Founder Smith is the one constant since the band started in Manchester in 1976. The Fall is known for his distinctive vocals, cryptic lyrics and unique sound.

Other gigs include a sell-out by Slaves at The Institute, Digbeth, on Monday and Jesse Malin at O2 Academy 3 on Tuesday with new album New York Before The War.

Sandwell Chronicle Thursday, May 14, 2015

Unspoiled beaches, such as this one at Porto Katsiki, is one of the main attractions

Enjoying eating out at a restaurant near Kalamitsi

It's addictive – you have just got to try windsurfing in Vassiliki

Stunning views are guaranteed

Lefkas – this is the relaxing, unspoilt holiday area that you dream about

By Ellen Manning

ASIDE from the hum of cicadas, punctuated by the odd dog barking and cockerel crowing, it's completely silent.

It's the same on the empty roads, where all the signs are in a foreign language, with very few of the customary English translations you so often expect to see in this part of the world.

There are no sprawling resorts and strips of neon nightclubs, just picture-perfect towns occupied by a few tavernas, shops and hotels. It's a far cry from the stereotypical image of a Greek getaway. Lefkas might be the fourth largest Ionian Island, but it's the unspoilt stuff of your dreams.

Our accommodation is the perfect example of the trademark seclusion of Lefkas. From our private poolside terrace, we can sit with a glass of the local wine, enjoying views of the capital, Lefkas Town, and across the water to the mainland.

With the nearest neighbour a few hundred metres away, and the pool hidden from view, it's the perfect place to relax. But it's not just the peace and quiet that makes Lefkas different from other islands.

Freedom

Just 21 miles long and nine miles wide, Lefkas – which some people also refer to as Lefkada – was a peninsula of Arcanania until it was split by a 28m canal excavated by the Corinthians in 640BC. Now you come and go across a swing-bridge that joins the mainland to the island, enjoying the feeling and culture of being on a Greek island with the freedom to easily explore further afield. Not that there isn't plenty to do on Lefkas.

Divided by the towering Mount Stavratos, each corner of the island has its own character – from the sheltered east coast with family-friendly beaches, to the crashing waves and steep cliffs of the dramatic west coast, with luscious rolling countryside dotted with deserted windmills and watermills in between.

It's here, inland, where you can really soak up the unbelievably slow pace.

Kavalos, the sleepy hamlet where our windmill lies, is the perfect example. From morning to evening, nothing seems to change, except the addition of a few Greek men outside what appears to be a bar.

The island's capital is far from a bustling metropolis. We accidentally arrive during siesta and wander around the narrow streets, thinking we're in one of those films where the whole world has suddenly disappeared. The low-key nature of the island brings its own low-key tourist attractions.

Near to the windmill, we hunt for the Melissa Gorge, a small gorge opened up by the local authority and given a paved route running past ruined watermills and windmills. After three days of searching we finally find it, directed on a tiny road sign.

On the other side of the island, just outside the tourist resort of Nidri, a picturesque harbour filled with boats clamouring to take people on tours of the nearby tiny islands, are the Rachi waterfalls. Not on Niagara levels, more a slow trickle.

Boating is the start of quite a lot of water-orientated action on Lefkas. The southern resort of Vassiliki is internationally recognised as one of the leading windsurfing resorts in Europe.And then there's the beaches. A tour of the famous west coast takes in some of the most impressive sights such as Kathisma Beachand Porto Katsiki.

CHOICE

Alexander Armstrong

Pointless Celebrities
BBC1, 6.10pm
Alexander Armstrong and Richard Osman host another star-studded round of the unorthodox general knowledge quiz, this time with a 'British Film' theme. The celebrities aiming to come up with obscure answers this time are Quadrophena stars Phil Daniels and Leslie Ash, Trainspotting and Shallow Grave actor Keith Allen, Gregory's Girl actress Clare Grogan, Mean Machine's Vas Blackwood, This is England's Thomas Turgoose, comedian, impressionist and screenwriter Phil Cornwell and Sally Thomsett, who played the youngest Waterbury sibling, Phyllis, in the 1970 adaptation of The Railway Children.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Live. **11.30** Paul Hollywood's Bread. (R) **12.00** BBC News; Weather. **12.10** Football Focus. **12.50** Saturday Sportsday. **1.00** Athletics. **2.00** Live Challenge Cup Rugby League. Leeds Rhinos v Huddersfield Giants (Kick-off 2.30pm). **4.30** Final Score. Jason Mohammad presents a round-up of the classified results. **5.20** Celebrity Mastermind. With Mark Thompson, Cheryl Baker, Guy Henry and Timothy Bentinck. (R) **5.50** BBC News.

6.00 Regional Programme.

6.10 Pointless Celebrities. Alexander Armstrong and Richard Osman challenge actors from classic British films, including Phil Daniels, Leslie Ash and Thomas Turgoose, to take part in the unorthodox quiz show.

7.00 Atlantis. Double bill. Jason is determined to rescue his fellow prisoners from the amphitheatre, and makes a daring return to Atlantis, which is becoming an ever more dangerous realm under Pasiphae's villainous rule. The hero and his friends face treachery at every turn, and come to realise that the only hope for the future is to kill the queen. Jack Donnelly stars. Last in the series.

8.30 The National Lottery: In It to Win It. New series. Dale Winton returns with the big-cash quiz show. Includes the Lotto and Thunderball draws with Kate Garraway, and a performance by Ella Eyre.

9.20 Casualty. Charlie goes to Bucharest with Connie to find his missing son, whom he discovers is addicted to heroin and will go to desperate lengths to pay his debts to some shady characters.

10.10 BBC News; Weather.

10.30 Match of the Day. Gary Lineker presents highlights of the latest Premier League clashes, including Queens Park Rangers v Newcastle United and Sunderland v Leicester City; National Lottery Update.

11.55 Live at the Apollo. Hal Cruttenden hosts an evening of stand-up at the Apollo in Hammersmith, London, introducing routines by Justin Moorhouse and Tom Stade. (R)

12.25 Film: The 51st State. (2001) Action comedy, with Samuel L Jackson and Robert Carlyle. **1.50** Weather for the Week Ahead. **1.55** BBC News.

BBC2

6.20 Animal Park. (R) **6.50 Film:** In Search of the Castaways. (1962) **8.30 Film:** The Charge of the Light Brigade. (1968) **10.20** Homes Under the Hammer. (R) **11.20** Escape to the Country. (R) **12.05** Living Famously. (R) **1.05 Film:** Rope. (1948) Hitchcock thriller, with Farley Granger and John Dall. **2.25** James Mason: Talking Pictures. (R) **3.05 Film:** North By Northwest. (1959) Hitchcock thriller, starring Cary Grant. **5.20** Flog It! (R)

6.20 Gardeners' World. (R)

6.50 Modern Times: The Great British Garden Watch. Documentary about a new breed of amateur naturalists who go to extreme lengths to capture the secret lives of the animals in their gardens. (R)

7.50 Britain's Greatest Generation. The united spirit of the Second World War, which saw women adopt roles previously filled by men, and rescue workers and volunteers risk all to save those injured in the Blitz. (R)

8.50 Dad's Army. With the Walmington-on-Sea Home Guard now established, Captain Mainwaring sets about trying to get equipment for the platoon. (R)

9.20 Film: Alan Partridge: Alpha Papa. (2013) Premiere. The hapless local radio DJ ends up in the centre of a crisis when a colleague gets fired by the station's new owners, only to respond by returning to the studio with a shotgun and taking hostages. The police enlist Alan's aid as a negotiator, giving him the chance to revive his own flagging public profile. Comedy, starring Steve Coogan, Colm Meaney and Sean Pertwee.

10.45 Rory Bremner's Election Report. The impressionist is joined by John Bird, Matt Forde and Sara Pascoe to reflect on the events of the general election and look forward to what lies ahead. (R)

11.15 W1A. David Wilkes seeks help in fleshing out the concept for new show One Big Family, and new Head of Inclusivity Lucy Freeman tries to "viralize" Muslim BBC Weather. Last in the series. (R)

11.45 Film: In the Loop. (2009) A witless government minister gets out of his depth in international politics after suggesting a war is imminent. Satirical comedy, starring Peter Capaldi.

1.30 This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Fort Boyard Ultimate Challenge. **6.25** Pat & Stan. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.45** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **7.00** Canimals. (R) **7.15** Sooty. (R) **7.30** Super 4. (R) **7.45** Nerds & Monsters. (R) **8.00** Thunderbirds Are Go. **8.25** ITV News. **8.30** Weekend. **9.25** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **10.25** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **11.25** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **12.30** ITV News; Weather. **12.35** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **1.40** Doc Martin. (R) **2.40** Who's Doing the Dishes? (R) **3.40 Film:** Freaky Friday. (2003) Disney comedy remake, starring Jamie Lee Curtis and Lindsay Lohan. **5.35** Regional Programme; Weather. **5.45** ITV News; Weather.

6.00 New You've Been Framed! Hall of Framed. Harry Hill narrates a comical selection of of some of the funniest clips featured on the show to celebrate the series' 25th anniversary. Featuring everything from giddy grandmas, cute kids and crazy animals to below-the-belt mishaps, practical jokers and painful-looking accidents.

7.00 Ninja Warrior UK. Ben Shephard, Rochelle Humes and Chris Kamara host the first semi-final of the nationwide endurance contest, giving past winners a chance to return to the obstacle course for a chance to once again tackle the heights of Mount Midoriyama – and claim the title of Ninja Warrior UK.

8.00 Britain's Got Talent. Simon Cowell, David Walliams, Amanda Holden and Alesha Dixon preside over proceedings as the hunt for Britain's next star entertainer reaches the sixth round of auditions. Ant and Dec are on hand to introduce the acts, and to congratulate or commiserate with them once the judges have passed their verdict.

9.20 Play to the Whistle. Guests AP McCoy, Jonathan Ross and Brooke Vincent join Holly Willoughby and her regular panellists for another edition of the sports-based comedy panel show.

10.05 ITV News; Weather.

10.20 Film: The Break-Up. (2006) A couple's relationship comes to an end, but neither wants to give up their home, forcing them to carry on living together. Comedy drama, starring Jennifer Aniston.

12.15 Jackpot247. **3.00** The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. (R) **3.40** ITV Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4

6.15 How I Met Your Mother. (R) **6.40** How I Met Your Mother. (R) **7.05** Tarawera Ultra Marathon. **7.30** FIM Superbike World Championship. **8.00** The Morning Line. **9.00** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **9.30** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **10.00** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **10.30** Frasier. (R) **11.00** Frasier. (R) **11.30** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **12.00** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **12.25** Marvel's Agents of SHIELD. (R) **1.25** Channel 4 Racing. Live coverage from Newbury and Newmarket. **4.15** Come Dine with Me. (R) **4.45** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.15** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.45** Come Dine with Me. (R)

6.15 Come Dine with Me. The final dinner party from Northampton. (R)

6.40 Channel 4 News.

7.00 Cornwall: Walking Through History. Tony Robinson takes a four-day trek along the coastline between Plymouth in Devon and Falmouth, learning about the thriving smuggling trade in Cornwall during the late 18th century. The area's tiny secretive harbours, beaches and secluded coves were ideal for illicit imports such as tobacco and brandy, and the business was so huge it threatened the national economy. Last in the series. (R)

8.00 The World's Most Extreme. An exploration of the most unusual airports on the planet, including a runway squeezed between skyscrapers and a landing strip carved into mountains.

9.00 Film: The Hunger Games. (2012) A totalitarian future-America holds an annual nationally televised event in which two children from each of its regions fight to the death until only one remains. A teenage girl takes her younger sister's place in the games and must pit her wits against the deadly combat skills of her rivals. Sci-fi adventure, starring Jennifer Lawrence.

11.50 Film: Underworld: Awakening. (2012) Vampire Selene awakes from cryonic suspension to battle mutant werewolves and a human plot to annihilate the undead. Action fantasy, with Kate Beckinsale and India Eisley.

1.30 Alan Carr: Chatty Man. (R) **2.25** Hollyoaks. (R) **4.35** Double Your House for Half the Money. (R) **5.30** The Common Denominator. (R) **5.55** How I Met Your Mother. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! **10.00** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R) **10.35** Cowboy Builders & Bodge Jobs. (R) **11.30** Britain's Horror Homes. (R) **12.30** The Nightmare Neighbour Next Door. (R) **1.25** The Hotel Inspector. (R) **2.25 Film:** Columbo: The Most Dangerous Match. (1973) Detective drama, with Peter Falk and Laurence Harvey. **3.55** Cats Make You Laugh Out Loud 2. (R) **4.55** Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away. (R) **5.50** 5 News Weekend. **5.55** Police Interceptors. (R)

6.45 Film: Spider-Man 3. (2007) A sinister alien parasite brings out the web-slinging hero's darker side, filling him with thoughts of revenge on his uncle's murderer, the shape-shifting Sandman. Meanwhile, he also has to contend with the challenge of his best friend following in his father's villainous footsteps – and a jealous rival developing superpowers of his own. Superhero sequel, with Tobey Maguire, Kirsten Dunst and James Franco. Edited to reduce violence, flashing images and end credits.

9.20 Big Brother: Timebomb. Daily round-up of highlights, revealing how the housemates are getting on under the all-seeing eye of Big Brother, featuring the latest tasks, games, arguments, laughs, diary room visits and bedroom chit-chat. Narrated by Marcus Bentley.

10.20 CSI: Crime Scene Investigation. A teenager is found dead in a public toilet, and an image on his phone leads the team to the daughters of a crime lab director, who both seem to have been abducted by the killer.

11.15 NCIS. The murder of a marine's wife is shown live on the internet and inquiries point to two housewives who were running their own pornographic website, but have since vanished. (R)

12.15 SuperCasino. Viewers get the chance to take part in live interactive gaming, with a mix of roulette-wheel spins and lively chat from the presenting team. **3.10** Big Brother: Timebomb. Daily round-up of highlights, featuring the latest tasks, games, arguments, laughs, diary room visits and bedroom chit-chat. (R) **4.00** Cats Make You Laugh Out Loud 2. Presenters Dave Spikey and Zoe Lyons introduce a second compilation of the internet's most popular cat videos. With animal behaviour therapist Professor Peter Neville. (R) **4.50** Make It Big. (R) **5.45** Angels of Jarm. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three
7.00 Top Gear **8.00** How to Win Eurovision **10.00** Happy Valley **11.00** Family Guy **1.15** Murder in Successville **1.45** Nick Helm's Heavy Entertainment **2.15** Bluestone 42 **3.45** Great Movie Mistakes V: Revenge of the Fifth **4.00** Close

BBC Four
7.00 Survivors: Nature's Indestructible Creatures **8.00** Wild Arabia **9.00** 1864 **11.00** Queen: Days of Our Lives **12.00** Metal at the BBC **12.30** Guitar Heroes at the BBC **1.30** Wild Arabia **2.30** Survivors: Nature's Indestructible Creatures **3.30** Close

ITV2
11.15 Britain's Got Talent **12.35** Britain's Got More Talent **1.35** Catchphrase **2.20 Film:** Kindergarten Cop (1990) **4.30** Mr Bean **5.40 Film:** King Kong (2005) **9.20** Britain's Got More Talent **10.20** Celebrity Juice **11.05** Britain's Got Talent **12.20** Britain's Got More Talent **1.20** Hell's Kitchen **2.55** Teleshopping **5.55** ITV2 Nightscreen

ITV3
12.30 Film: Evil Under the Sun (1982) **2.50** Wycliffe **3.55 Film:** Columbo: Etude in Black (1972) **6.00** Lewis **8.00** Doc Martin **9.00** Foyle's War **11.00** Inspector Morse **1.20** Wire in the Blood **2.15** ITV3 Nightscreen **2.30** Teleshopping

ITV4
11.45 Pawn Stars **1.05** Gunsmoke **2.15 Film:** The Cimarron Kid (1952) **4.00** British Touring Car Championship Highlights **5.30** Pawn Stars **6.00** Storage Wars: New York **7.00** Shed and Buried **8.00 Film:** Thunderball (1965) **10.45 Film:** On Deadly Ground (1994) **12.50 Film:** Bowfinger (1999) **2.25** Tommy Cooper **2.50** ITV4 Nightscreen **3.00** Teleshopping

E4
11.00 Baby Daddy **12.00** New Girl **1.00** The Goldbergs **2.00** How I Met Your Mother **2.55 Film:** Maid in Manhattan (2002) **5.00** Made in Chelsea **6.00** The Big Bang Theory **9.00 Film:** She's All That (1999) **11.00** Gogglebox **12.00** The Inbetweeners **1.10** Rude Tube: Mashed 'n' Mixed **2.15** 2 Broke Girls **2.40** How I Met Your Mother **3.25** Rules of Engagemnt **3.50** New Girl **4.40** Make It or Break It

Film4
11.00 Appointment in London (1952) **1.00** Rio (2011) **2.50** Flash Gordon (1980) **5.00** City of Ember (2008) **6.50** Definitely, Maybe (2008) **9.00** The A-Team (2010) **11.20** The Raid (2011) **1.20** Mirrors (2008) **3.35** Close

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FCC Environment

Public exhibition

RESTORATION OF EDWIN RICHARDS QUARRY

In June and November 2013, we held public exhibitions to explain and seek your views on proposals for the long-term restoration of Edwin Richards Quarry in Rowley Regis. The planning applications for this restoration have since been submitted and are presently with Sandwell Council for determination. We are now holding a further final exhibition to outline the detail of the submitted applications, which will be determined by the Council over the summer.

To find out more, please visit **www.fccenvironment.co.uk/edwin-richards-quarry**

3.30PM – 8PM

Thursday 14 May
St Michael's School,
Curral Road,
Rowley Regis
B65 9AN

This public exhibition will give you an opportunity to **ask questions** of the project team, **find out more** about the proposals and to **discuss** this important development.

From waste to resource

Sandwell Chronicle Thursday, May 14, 2015

CHOICE

Marc Warren

Jonathan Strange & Mr Norrell
BBC1, 9pm
New series. At the beginning of the 19th century, the world no longer believes in magic - until the reclusive Mr Norrell stuns the people of York by making statues surrounding the city's cathedral speak and move. Meanwhile, the rich and charming Jonathan Strange, more interested in wine and women than reading dusty old books, discovers that he too has magical powers. As the duo's stories intertwine, they embark on a fantastic journey involving mystical creatures, the reanimation of the dead and war with Napoleon's French Empire. Fantasy based on Susanna Clarke's novel, starring Marc Warren.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **7.30** Match of the Day. (R) **9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** The Big Questions. **11.00** Sunday Politics. **12.15** MOTD2 Extra. With Mark Chapman and the Match of the Day team. **1.00** BBC News; Weather. **1.15** Bargain Hunt. (R) **1.55** Homes Under the Hammer. (R) **2.55** Escape to the Country. (R) **3.25** Shark. (R) **4.25** Lifeline. **4.35** Points of View. **4.50** Songs of Praise – School Choir of the Year. **5.35** RHS Chelsea Flower Show 2015.

6.35 BBC News.

6.50 Regional Programme.

7.00 Countryfile. Anita Rani returns to her home town of Bradford to explore the rural gems on her own doorstep and the journey that has been made for centuries from the urban sprawl to the fresh air of the nearby moors. She also presents archive items featuring stories where town meets country, including Matt Baker taking to the dizzying heights of the Avon Gorge in Bristol. Including Weather for the Week Ahead.

8.00 Antiques Roadshow. Fiona Bruce and the team visit Barrington Court in Somerset, where discoveries include a toy Noah's Ark from the 1920s, an Elizabethan wine jug found at a car-boot sale and a £12 charity shop bracelet that dates back to the Victorian era. Among the other finds are a 16th-century silver cup constructed around a carved coconut, a vial of smelling salts with a mystery compartment and a collection of ceramic brewery figures that have seen better days.

9.00 Jonathan Strange & Mr Norrell. New series. The lives of two magicians become intertwined with the fate of 19th-century England. Fantasy based on Susanna Clarke's novel, starring Eddie Marsan and Bertie Carvel.

10.00 BBC News.

10.20 Regional Programme.

10.30 Match of the Day 2. Mark Chapman reviews the latest Premier League action, featuring Swansea City v Manchester City and Manchester United v Arsenal.

11.35 Athletics. The Shanghai Golden Grand Prix. Action from the second Diamond League event of the season, held at the Shanghai Stadium in China.

12.35 Weather for the Week Ahead.
12.40 BBC News.

BBC2

6.00 Homes Under the Hammer. **6.30** The Big Allotment Challenge. (R) **7.30** Countryfile. (R) **8.30** Gardeners' World. (R) **9.00** The Beechgrove Garden. **9.30** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **11.00** Mary Berry's Absolute Favourites. (R) **11.30** Paul Hollywood's Bread. (R) **12.00 Film:** Scott of the Antarctic. (1948) Fact-based drama, starring John Mills. **1.45** Live Challenge Cup Rugby League. Wakefield Trinity Wildcats v Leigh Centurions (Kick-off 2.15pm). **4.30** Triathlon.

6.00 Hotel India. The Taj Mahal Palace in Mumbai is one of India's oldest and most famous hotels and is where the super-rich go to be treated like the maharajahs of the country's past. This documentary was filmed over the course of six months and goes behind the scenes with the 1,500-strong staff as they respond to every whim and demand of the guests. In the first episode, general manager Gaurav and executive housekeeper Indrani spend days making countless checks ahead of VIP visits to the luxurious Tata suite, while oil trader Captain Bhasin hosts a cocktail party in his rooms. (R)

7.00 A Very British Airline. Documentary about the inner workings of British Airways, exploring how the airline tries to persuade people to spend more by flying first class. (R)

8.00 Demolition: The Wrecking Crew. New series. Documentary following crews bringing down some of the country's biggest buildings, including the demolition of the 100m cooling towers of Didcot A power station.

9.00 The Detectives. New series. The work of a police team focusing on sex offences, beginning with a historic abuse investigation into a DJ accused of a string of sex offences in the 1960s and 1970s. Continues tomorrow.

10.00 Film: Made in Dagenham. (2010) The female employees of a 1960s British car firm lead a national strike, demanding the right to equal pay. Fact-based comedy drama, starring Sally Hawkins.

11.45 Film: Hideous Kinky. (1998) A single mother decides to uproot her two children and head for Morocco in the hope of finding spiritual fulfilment. 1970s-set drama, starring Kate Winslet.

1.20 Sign Zone: Countryfile. (R) **2.20** Holby City. (R) **3.20** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Fort Boyard Ultimate Challenge. **6.25** Pat & Stan. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **7.00** Canimals. (R) **7.15** Sooty. (R) **7.30** Fort Boyard Ultimate Challenge. (R) **8.25** ITV News. **8.30** Weekend. **9.25** Judge Rinder. (R) **10.20** Judge Rinder. (R) **11.25** Judge Rinder. (R) **12.25** ITV News; Weather. **12.30** Tipping Point. (R) **1.30** Britain's Got Talent. (R) **2.45** All Star Family Fortunes. (R) **3.50** Midsomer Murders. (R) **5.50** Ninja Warrior UK. (R)

6.45 Regional Programme; Weather.

7.00 ITV News; Weather.

7.15 Celebrity Squares. Sarah Millican, Ana Matronic, Joe Lycett, Tess Daly, Rickie Haywood-Williams, Melvin Odoom and Milton Jones join Tim Vine and Joe Wilkinson in the grid. Warwick Davis hosts.

8.00 Sunday Night at the Palladium. Jimmy Carr hosts the variety show, with music by Markus Feehily, Rebecca Ferguson and Deacon Blue, a dance routine from Vincent and Flavia, and comedy from Rob Beckett.

9.00 Home Fires. The impact of the war begins to be felt in Great Paxford as the women are forced to make sacrifices for the salvage effort. But soon matters on the personal front replace their efforts on the home front as Kate and Jack's relationship intensifies, Pat's marriage deteriorates and Claire finally plucks up the courage to ask Spencer out – unaware he is hiding a secret that could ruin their relationship before it has even started. Meanwhile, Alison resorts to desperate measures to pay a bill, and soon realises her actions will cost her much more. Wartime drama, with Claire Rushbrook, Daisy Badger, Rachel Hurd-Wood and Fenella Woolgar.

10.05 ITV News; Weather.

10.15 Perspectives: The Great American Love Song with Nicky Campbell. The broadcaster reveals his passion for the music of 1920s and 1930s New York, choosing six timeless love songs from the era and finding out about the artists who wrote them.

11.15 Premiership Rugby Union. Action from the 22nd and final round of fixtures.

12.10 The Store. **2.30** Motorsport UK. **3.20** The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. (R) **4.00** ITV Nightscreen. **5.05** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R)

CHANNEL 4

6.20 How I Met Your Mother. (R) **6.40** How I Met Your Mother. (R) **7.05** Volkswagen Racing Cup. **7.35** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.00** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.30** Frasier. (R) **9.00** Frasier. (R) **9.30** Sunday Brunch. **12.30** George Clarke's Amazing Spaces. (R) **1.30** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **2.00** The Simpsons. (R) **2.30** The Simpsons. (R) **3.00 Film:** The Parent Trap. (1998) Comedy remake, starring Lindsay Lohan. **5.35** A Place in the Sun: Home or Away.

6.30 Channel 4 News.

7.00 Speed with Guy Martin. The motorcycle racer and lorry mechanic attempts, with the aid of slipstreaming, to break the British record for outright speed on a bicycle – 110mph. Guy recruits a team comprising a truck racer, a bike builder and a design engineer to prepare for the feat, and undergoes a training regime with double Olympic cycling gold medallist Laura Trott before heading to Pendine Sands on the shores of Carmarthen Bay for his challenge. (R)

8.00 For the Love of Cars. The lads celebrate Swedish cars, which they claim to be the unlikely trailblazers of motoring. Philip Glenister gets to live out a childhood dream when he gets behind the wheel of the Volvo P1800 from Roger Moore's 1960s TV series The Saint, and they visit the renowned Millbrook testing ground to put a 25-year-old Saab 900 Turbo through its paces.

9.00 Grayson Perry's Dream House. Documentary following the creation of Grayson Perry's biggest and most ambitious work of art to date – the building of a secular chapel in tribute to Essex women.

10.00 8 Out of 10 Cats Does Countdown. Jimmy Carr hosts the comedy panel show's version of the famous quiz, with team captains Sean Lock and Jon Richardson joined by guests Kathy Burke and Kevin Bridges. (R)

11.05 Jimmy Carr: Laughing & Joking. (R)

12.10 Film: Hyde Park on Hudson. (2012) **1.45** Undercover Boss Canada. (R) **2.35** Born Naughty? (R) **3.30** Phil: Secret Agent Down Under. (R) **4.25** The Renovation Game. (R) **5.20** Hugh's 3 Good Things: Best Bites. (R) **5.30** The Common Denominator. (R) **5.55** How I Met Your Mother. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake!: Peppa Pig. **6.05** Bananas in Pyjamas. (R) **6.20** Angelina Ballerina. (R) **6.30** Pip Ahoy! (R) **6.45** The Mr Men Show. (R) **6.55** Chloe's Closet. (R) **7.05** Roobarb and Custard Too. (R) **7.15** Make Way for Noddy. (R) **7.25** Paw Patrol. (R) **7.40** Little Princess. (R) **7.50** Milkshake! Monkey. (R) **7.55** Wanda and the Alien. (R) **8.05** Milkshake! Bop Box. (R) **8.10** Zack and Quack. (R) **8.25** Olly the Little White Van. **8.30** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **8.40** Mio Mao. (R) **8.45** Jelly Jamm. (R) **9.00** LazyTown. (R) **9.30** Dora and Friends. (R) **10.00** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R) **10.35** Access. **10.40** The Dog Rescuers. (R) **11.05** Police Interceptors. (R) **12.05** Police Interceptors. (R) **1.05** Police Interceptors. (R) **2.00 Film:** The Money Pit. (1986) Comedy, starring Tom Hanks and Shelley Long. **3.45 Film:** See No Evil, Hear No Evil. (1989) A blind man and his deaf friend go on the run to escape a trumped-up murder charge and crooks tracking down a top-secret microchip. Comedy, starring Richard Pryor and Gene Wilder. Edited to reduce language, nudity, innuendo and violence. **5.40 Film:** The Great Escape. (1963) Allied prisoners held in a supposedly escape-proof detention camp plan an ingenious mass breakout. Second World War drama, with Steve McQueen, James Coburn and Richard Attenborough.

8.50 5 News Weekend.

9.00 Big Brother: Timebomb. Daily round-up of highlights, revealing how the housemates are getting on under the all-seeing eye of Big Brother, featuring the latest tasks, games, arguments, laughs, diary room visits and bedroom chit-chat. Narrated by Marcus Bentley.

10.00 Film: The Rock. (1996) An FBI chemical weapons expert and a jailed SAS veteran must break into Alcatraz to bring down a renegade general and his men. Action thriller, with Sean Connery.

12.40 Film: Bangkok Dangerous. (2008) A hitman in Thailand questions his way of life, while his employer plots to have him killed when his work is done. Action thriller remake, with Nicolas Cage. **2.30** SuperCasino. Viewers get the chance to take part in live interactive gaming, with a mix of roulette-wheel spins and lively chat from the presenting team. **4.00** House Doctor. Ann Maurice and Alistair Appleton present more highlights from the series, recalling a basement flat in north London desperately in need of tidying up. Last in the series. (R) **4.25** Make It Big. (R) **5.45** Angels of Jarm. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three
7.00 Top Gear **8.00** Don't Tell the Bride **9.00** Russell Howard's Good News **10.00** Tatau **11.25** Family Guy **12.10** Murder in Successville **12.40** American Dad! **1.00** Family Guy **1.25** Nick Helm's Heavy Entertainment **1.50** Russell Howard's Good News **2.20** In Deep **2.35** Tatau

BBC Four
7.00 Operation Jericho **8.00** Fighting for King and Empire: Britain's Caribbean Heroes **9.00** Burma, My Father and the Forgotten Army **10.00** Easter Island: Mysteries of a Lost World **11.30** Je t'aime: The Story of French Song with Petula Clark **12.30** Shirley Bassey at the BBC **1.30** Imagine: Dame Shirley Bassey: The Girl from Tiger Bay **2.30** Operation Jericho **3.30** Close

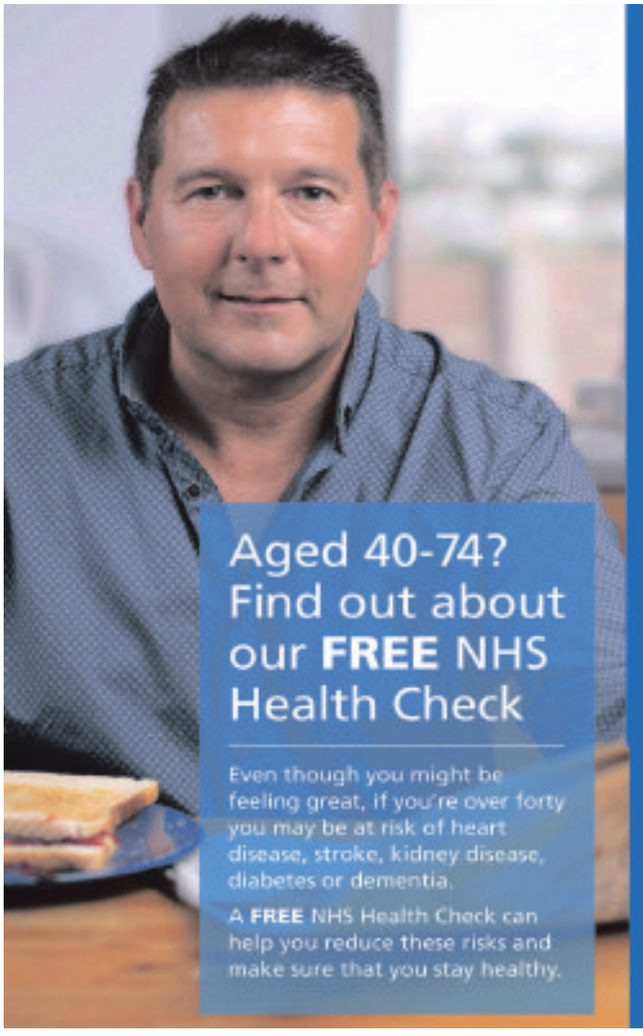
ITV2
3.30 Film: Legally Blonde 2: Red, White and Blonde (2003) **5.35** Britain's Got Talent **6.55** Britain's Got More Talent **8.00** You've Been Framed! Presents **9.00 Film:** 21 Jump Street (2012) **11.15 Film:** The Matrix Reloaded (2003) **1.45** Fake Reaction **2.20** Teleshopping **5.50** ITV2 Nightscreen

ITV3
1.25 A Touch of Frost **3.40 Film:** Clockwise (1986) **5.35** Wycliffe **6.40** Inspector Morse **9.00** The Best of the Royal Variety **10.00** Vicious **11.05 Film:** Steptoe and Son (1972) **1.05** Like Father, Like Son **2.20** Judge Judy **3.20** ITV3 Nightscreen **3.40** Emmerdale

ITV4
12.35 Pawn Stars **2.55** Gunsmoke **4.00 Film:** Shalako (1968) **6.15 Film:** The Cimarron Kid (1952) **8.00** Premiership Rugby Union **9.00 Film:** National Lampoon's Loaded Weapon 1 (1993) **10.45 Film:** The Jerk (1979) **12.40** Hell on Wheels **2.15** Tommy Cooper **2.40** Movies Now **2.50** ITV4 Nightscreen

E4
12.30 Made in Chelsea **1.35** Melissa & Joey **2.30** How I Met Your Mother **3.30** Brooklyn Nine-Nine **4.00** The Goldbergs **5.00 Film:** Three Men and a Baby (1987) **7.00** The Big Bang Theory **10.00** Gogglebox **11.00** The Inbetweeners **12.10** Virtually Famous **1.00** Channel 4's Comedy Gala 2014 **2.10** New Girl **2.55** Rules of Engagement **3.15** The Cleveland Show **3.40** Hollyoaks

Film4
11.00 Sea Devils (1953) **1.00** The Legend of Zorro (2005) **3.40** The Hunt for Red October (1990) **6.30** Hugo (2011) **9.00** Braveheart (1995) **12.25** Under Siege 2: Dark Territory (1995) **2.25** The Day He Arrives (2011) **4.00** Close



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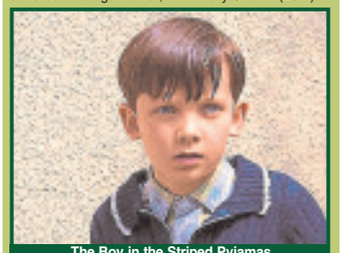
FILM CHOICES

MONDAY
The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas, BBC2, 11.20pm
Bruno, a boy in Nazi Germany, moves to the country when his father is placed in charge of a concentration camp. While exploring the woods close to the facility's boundary, he spots a Jewish youngster being held there, and the two become friends – but Bruno remains innocently oblivious to the camp's true purpose. Drama, starring David Thewlis. (2008)

TUESDAY
The Resident, BBC1, 11.45pm
A doctor moves into a spacious new apartment, and becomes attracted to her landlord. However, she does not realise he is becoming dangerously obsessed with her, constructing elaborate hiding places to spy on her. His behaviour becomes increasingly sinister, and her reconciliation with her ex-boyfriend drives him into a murderous rage. Horror, with Hilary Swank. (2011)


The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas, Monday, BBC2, 11.20pm

WEDNESDAY
Robot & Frank, BBC1, 11.15pm
An elderly jewel thief struggles to look after himself as his memory starts to fail him. His busy son invests in a robot carer to look after the old man, but the retired crook sees the machine as the perfect partner for one last heist. Sci-fi comedy drama, starring Frank Langella and James Marsden. (2012)

THURSDAY
The Other Man, BBC1, 11.45pm
After his wife's death, a man learns she was having an affair when he discovers provocative photos of her with another man. He resolves to track down her lover and exact his revenge, but when he confronts the man about his misdeeds, he instead strikes up an unlikely friendship, making him question whether he should continue with his vengeful scheme. Drama, starring Liam Neeson and Antonio Banderas. (2008)

FRIDAY
Fletch, ITV, 10.40pm
A wisecracking reporter and master of disguise investigates a man who falsely claims to be dying and is asking people to kill him. Comedy mystery based on Gregory Mcdonald's novel, with Chevy Chase and Tim Matheson. (1985)

The stars are out to shine on a night of celebration

Life is rarely quiet in Walford, Weatherfield, Emmerdale, Hollyoaks, or the Doctors' town of Letherbridge, but 2015 has been even more dramatic than usual.

So after 12 months of crying their mascara all down their faces, emerging dazed from realistic-looking wreckage and praying they don't forget their lines ahead of a big live episode, it's time for the soap stars to put on their glad rags and celebrate at The British Soap Awards 2015.

As Phillip Schofield, who is hosting the awards from the Palace Theatre in Manchester, says: "What a year it's been in soap land – we've had some brilliant storylines and acting that's absolutely kept the nation gripped.

"It's my 10th anniversary as host of The British Soap Awards this year so I'm really looking forward to an incredible night that's sure to be one to remember."

Last year's awards were largely dominated by Coronation Street and the heartbreaking demise of Hayley Cropper. Julie Hesmondhalgh and her on-screen husband David Neilson won Best Actress and Actor respectively (with an additional Dramatic Performance award for Neilson), as well as Best Storyline, Episode and On-Screen Partnership, although the coveted Best British Soap award was snatched by Hollyoaks.

This year though, many seasoned-soapwatchers will probably be expecting Coronation Street to take a backseat to its arch-rival EastEnders.

In February, the BBC's flagship soap celebrated its 30th anniversary with a 'live week,' culminating in the revelation that Lucy Beale had been murdered by her little brother. In fact, there was so much going on, some fans barely had the chance to register the news that Kathy Beale, believed to have died off-screen in 2006, was still alive.

Luckily, the awards judges were taking note as her comeback has been nominated for Scene of the Year. There's also a nod for the live episode, while Eliot Carrington, who plays pint-sized killer Bobby Beale, is up for Best Young Performance, and John Altman's 'Nasty' Nick Cotton, who finally breathed his last that week, is up for Best Villain.

However, like the soaps themselves, these awards are usually full of twists and surprises, and there could be some major upsets.

It's also been a spectacular year for Hollyoaks, which brought us a dramatic train crash. Emmerdale gave us the deaths of Katie Sugden and Donna Dingle, while Doctors saw the reunion of Rob and Karen.

Whatever happens, it's going to be an emotional evening, especially as many viewers will be expecting tributes to soap legend Ann Kirkbride, aka Deidre Barlow, who died in January.

But it might also be a time to look ahead to what's in store for the future, and speculate about forthcoming storylines.

And given that we recently found out that Kat Moon once gave birth to twins without realising and kindly former vicar's wife Laurel Dingle is now a raging alcoholic, it seems safe to say that no matter how many gongs they pick up, the nation's serials won't be taking it easy during the rest of 2015.

The British Soap Awards 2015, Thursday, ITV, 8pm

BEST OF THE REST

MONDAY
Class of 92
ITV, 10.40pm
Remember the time when David Beckham was a fresh-faced whippersnapper plying his trade with Manchester United? Around Becks, who recently turned 40, were other young players plucked from the ranks of the Red Devils' youth team by Alex Ferguson to spearhead yet another challenge on the Premier League title. Among them were Ryan Giggs, Nicky Butt, Gary Neville, Phil Neville and Paul Scholes – Fergie's Fledglings. This documentary charts the group's rise to prominence and their biggest moments, as well as their continuing friendships. Stars such as Eric Cantona, Zinedine Zidane, film director Danny Boyle, Stone Roses bass player Mani and ex-Prime Minister Tony Blair are among those offering their opinions.

TUESDAY
Blinging Up Baby: You Won't Believe It!
Channel 5, 9pm
Some people may not see the point in buying expensive clothes for kids, especially when the designer gear will only end up covered in stains before being outgrown in what can seem like a matter of weeks. However, a growing number of parents are choosing to dress their young children in glamorous outfits – in fact, the trend is so widespread that following last year's one-off documentary, Channel 5 is now bringing us an entire series devoted to it. In this first episode, we meet mum-of-three Lisa Marie Whitcombe, who is entering two of her daughters into a beauty pageant, and Candi Donaldson, who has already taught six-year-old Frankie how to put on make-up and false nails. The mothers also explain why they believed that by making their tots look their best, they are giving them the confidence to face the world.

WEDNESDAY
Inspector George Gently
BBC1, 8pm
It's Christmas Eve 1969 and Gently is enjoying a spot of festive cheer until he gets the news that a bank has been hit by armed robbers and he and Bacchus have work to do. The detective's hunt for the gunmen takes him into the world of skinheads and he is later faced with a dilemma. Does the law always have to be so cruel, or can he bend it just this once? Detective drama set in the north-east of England, starring Martin Shaw and Lee Ingleby, with a guest appearance by Jody Latham (Shameless). Last in the series.

The Class of 92, Monday, ITV, 10.40pm

THURSDAY
Born Naughty?
Channel 4, 8pm
Consultant paediatrician Dr Ravi Jayaram and family GP Dr Dawn Harper meet more children with behavioural issues, as well as the youngsters' long-suffering parents. The duo's first case is that of eight-year-old Bobby, who refuses to deviate from a diet including chocolate, chips and cake, complaining that other dishes make him feel unwell – could it be possible he is suffering from a food phobia? Plus, the story of three-year-old Jessi-Jai, whose parents are desperate for her to start speaking in proper sentences so they can engage in conversations together.

FRIDAY
Mysteries of the Bible: Mary Magdalene
Channel 5, 8pm
From the writing of the New Testament to the filming of The Da Vinci Code, Mary Magdalene is one of the most controversial figures in the Bible. She features in the Gospels and is present at many of the important moments recorded in Jesus's life, including the crucifixion and the resurrection. However, she also got a reputation as a harlot and fallen woman, mainly dating from a sixth-century sermon delivered by Pope Gregory. In this documentary, author Margaret Starbird sets out to investigate claims made in recent years that not only was Mary the wife of Christ, but also the mother of His children. Starbird also examines the role women may have played in the early Christian church.

Mary Berry's Absolute Favourites
BBC2, 8pm
The veteran cook focuses on recipes inspired by her love of the countryside. Mushrooms are one of Mary's favourite ingredients and she goes foraging for wild varieties in the New Forest, before cooking garlic mushrooms on toasted brioche and mushroom Scotch eggs – ideal for a country picnic hamper.

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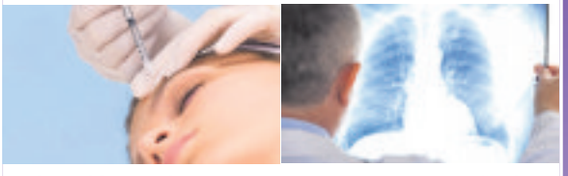

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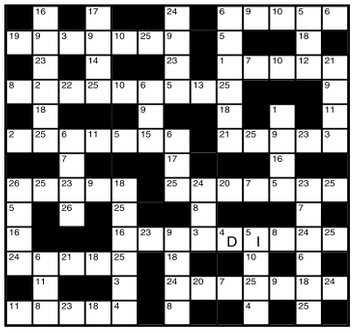
BRAIN GYM No.325

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



1	14
2	15
3	16
4 D	17
5 I	18
6	19
7	20
8	21
9	22
10	23
11	24
12	25
13	26

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
M	X	W	E	A	T	H	Z	N	L	Y	B	J
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
S	U	Q	F	V	P	G	D	O	R	K	I	C

Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

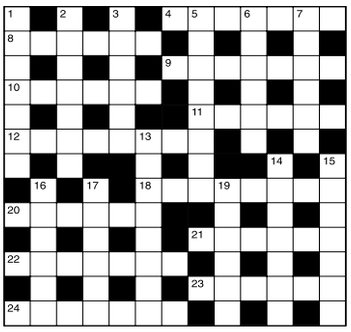
Cryptic Clues:

Across

4. Teaches one way to confiscate (7)
8. Gloss over (8)
9. I'd note a friend in the best possible way (7)
10. Swedish girl riding around (6)
11. Smile wryly when given the wrong directions (6)
12. Sailors in the drink (8)
18. If done it might be reported (8)
20. First two letters posted away (6)
21. Base Shakespearian character (6)
22. Little of the court's time will be taken by this group of dissipated people (4,3)
23. Be inclined to receive support from others? (4,2)
24. Back the other side (7)

Down

1. She robbed her sleeping partner of his capital assets (7)
2. Bounty - and it's a big ship too (7)
3. Possibly deigns to draw (6)
5. Sent about ten cents as a deposit (8)
6. Its passengers will be late (6)
7. As yet unalarmed? (6)
13. They secure temporary accommodation (4-4)
14. Friendly? Far from it! (7)
15. Very hard worker supports a mother (7)
16. A variety of bread to cause friction (6)
17. Sting to anger (6)
19. Smoothed out on board perhaps (6)



Quick Clues:

Across

4. Versus (7)
8. Fairness (6)
9. Dry (7)
10. Easy (6)
11. Mar (6)
12. Sit astride (8)
18. Ludicrous (8)
20. Ripe (6)
21. Bewilder (6)
22. Trust (7)
23. Rely (6)
24. Make good (7)

Down

1. Endure (7)
2. Resume (7)
3. Phlegmatic (6)
5. Magnificence (8)
6. Revenue (6)
7. Sleigh (6)
13. Guardian (8)
14. Charged (7)
15. By now (7)
16. In abundance (6)
17. Beat (6)
19. Talented (6)

Sudoku

		5	1				6	2
	6		5		9			
	1	3				7	9	
	3			1			5	8
			6		5			
7			9	4			2	
	8	6					7	
			3		7			6
5	2	7			8	1		

Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

2	4	8	3	7	1	6	5	9
7	1	3	6	9	5	8	2	4
9	6	5	4	8	2	3	7	1
6	7	4	5	1	8	9	3	2
3	9	1	7	2	4	5	6	8
8	5	2	9	6	3	1	4	7
1	2	7	8	5	6	4	9	3
4	8	6	2	3	9	7	1	5
5	3	9	1	4	7	2	8	6

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS:
CRYPTIC - Across: 1 Second-class; 9 And; 10 Lower-case; 11 Paced; 13 Epistle; 14 Minute; 16 Uglier; 18 Deepest; 19 Might; 20 Underhand; 21 Too; 22 Prime number. Down: 2 End; 3 Oiled; 4 Dawned; 5 Larking; 6 Startling; 7 Happy medium; 8 Penetration; 12 Contender; 15 Theorem; 17 Strain; 19 Madam; 21 Toe. QUICK - Across: 1 Opinionated; 9 Met; 10 Spectator; 11 Array; 13 Observe; 14 Superb; 16 Pennon; 18 Detests; 19 Dodge; 20 Rebellion; 21 Gas; 22 Never-ending. Down: 2 Put; 3 Nasty; 4 Oberon; 5 Artiste; 6 Enthroned; 7 Ambassadors; 8 Free and easy; 12 Reputable; 15 Resolve; 17 Aspire; 19 Dined; 21 Gun.

Thinking space

Quiz

1. What is the ninth sign of the zodiac?
2. What is a turkey brown?
3. In which country is Casablanca?
4. In which ship did Drake circumnavigate the world in 1577-80?
5. Who wrote the play Hay Fever?
6. In which war was the Battle of Borodino?
7. Who painted The Laughing Cavalier?
8. In which country was Albert Einstein Born?
9. What is the capital of Sicily?
10. What was the pen-name of the Irish writer Brian O'Nolan?

Last week's solutions:

Quiz: 1 Hera; 2 1837; 3 Kenya; 4 Beethoven; 5 Four; 6 Kentucky; 7 Argon; 8 Anthony Trollope; 9 Dr. No; 10 Hamlet.

Niner: RELATIONS

Niner

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

5287334 gives an animal,
5611 gives a bird,
79948 gives a snake.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

Official Government Test Environmental Data. Fuel consumption figures mpg (litres/100km) and CO_2 emissions (g/km). Vauxhall New Corsa Sting 1.2i 70PS: Urban: 42.8(6.6), Extra-urban: 62.8(4.5), Combined: 53.3(5.3), CO_2 emissions: 124g/km.#

Participating Retailers only. Model featured New Corsa Sting 1.2i 70PS 3dr from £9,175 on the road. Offer price £8,995. Offer available on orders or registrations from 8 April and 1 July 2015, subject to availability. Offer available to private individuals and small businesses 1-24 (purchase only, excluding B2B). All other sales categories are excluded; cannot be used in conjunction with any other offer. UK-supplied vehicles only. ^Applicants must hold a full, valid driving licence and be 18+ to qualify for a test drive. #Official EU-regulated test data are provided for comparison purposes and actual performance will depend on driving style, road conditions and other non-technical factors. Correct at time of going to press.

No upward chain on sale of four-bed semi

A WELL-presented four-bed semi in Dog Kennel Lane, Oldbury has good family-sized accommodation.

Set back from the road, it is for sale through Robert Oulsnam at £219,950 with no upward chain.

Having off-road parking at the front, it has a porch and inner hallway with under-stairs storage, two reception rooms and dining room with French doors to garden, kitchen, separate WC, bathroom, inner hallway, integral garage, conservatory, four bedrooms and loft. The garden has a decking area. Call 0121 4299986 or visit www.oulsnam.net

Forthcoming Auction

Cottons
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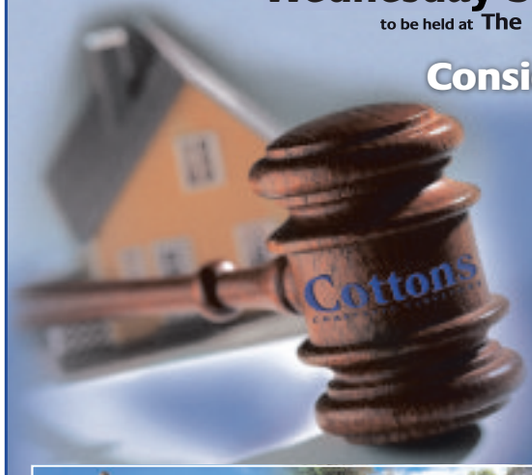
Wednesday 3rd June 2015
to be held at The Aston Villa Football Club



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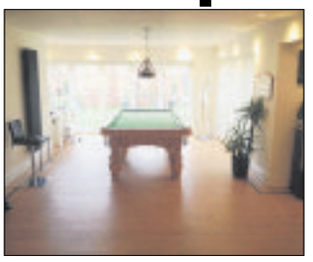
Outstanding property with its own leisure complex

NUMBER 16 Stour Street, West Bromwich is a truly outstanding detached family home which has a fantastic award-winning leisure complex with a heated swimming pool, whirpool style hot tub and gym area.

It is for sale through Bartrams at £469,950 with no chain. The stamp duty and legal fees are to be paid by the vendor.

The accommodation includes four bedrooms with two en-suites, a living room with a dining area and a further rear lounge with an entertainment room. There is also a kitchen, laundry, guest shower and wet room and an office.

Call 0121 6019370 or visit www.bartrams.com



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Thimblemill Road, BEARWOOD,

PARADISE FOR A FIRST TIME BUYER! A most beautifully improved home having been tastefully upgraded comprising, 2 reception rooms, refitted modern kitchen, 2 double bedrooms, refitted upstairs bathroom, D/G and C/H, front & rear gardens.

Offers Around £132,500

Gladys Road, BEARWOOD,

VIEWING A MUST! Two double bedrooms, Loft Room, Two Reception Rooms, Fitted Kitchen, Utility Room, Upstairs Bathroom, Ground Floor Shower Room, central heating & part double glazing, porch, front & rear gardens.

Offers Around £129,950

Valley Road, SMETHWICK,

Mid town house comprising, hallway, reception room, refitted kitchen, cloakroom, conservatory, 3 bedrooms, family bathroom, double glazed & centrally heated, driveway, front & rear gardens. No Upward Chain. IDEAL FIRST PURCHASE!

Offers Around £119,950

Hamilton Road, SMETHWICK,

EXTENSIVELY EXTENDED FAMILY HOME The property comprises 8 bedrooms, 4 reception rooms, 2 kitchens, 2 bathrooms, wet room, driveway, garage, double glazed &centrally heated, front & rear gardens.

Offers Around £315,000

Sabell Road, SMETHWICK,

EARLY VIEWING HIGHLY RECOMMENDED!! Well maintained end terraced property comprising, hallway, 2 reception rooms, refitted kitchen, bathroom, 2 double bedrooms, LOFT ROOM, double glazed & centrally heated, front & rear gardens.

Offers Around £99,950

Tame Road, ASTON,

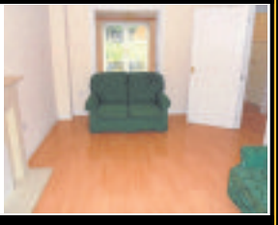
Mid terraced property offered with no onward chain comprising, porch, hallway, 2 reception rooms, fitted kitchen, ground floor bathroom, 3 bedrooms, double glazed & centrally heated, front & rear gardens. IDEAL INVESTMENT OR FIRST PURCHASE!

Offers Around £94,950

St Paul's Road, SMETHWICK,

KEENLY PRICED! NO ONWARD CHAIN!

A modern spacious semi detached property comprising, hallway with downstairs cloakroom off, front reception room with inter-connecting doors to rear reception room; with double glazed doors opening to rear garden, breakfast kitchen with integrated appliances, first floor landing comprising of four bedrooms and family bathroom, further stairs leading to master bedroom with en-suite and further sixth bedroom (with restricted head height) double glazed and centrally heated, garage and off road parking, front and rear gardens.



Offers Around £210,000

Edgbaston Road, SMETHWICK,

EARLY VIEWING MOST HIGHLY RECOMMENDED!

A beautiful spacious immaculately refurbished family home comprising, vestibule, entrance hallway, front reception room, rear reception room with double glazed French style patio doors to rear garden, superb breakfast/kitchen with integrated appliances and double glazed bay window, three good sized bedrooms, master bedroom with double glazed doors opening to Juliette style balcony, family bathroom, double glazed and centrally heated, front and rear gardens

Offers Around £174,950

Wolverhampton Road South, QUINTON,

Semi detached property comprising, porch, hallway, reception room, breakfast/kitchen, conservatory, utility room, three bedrooms, family bathroom, double glazed, centrally heated, front & rear gardens. IDEAL FIRST PURCHASE!

Offers Around £140,000

Thimblemill Road, BEARWOOD,

Well presented terraced property in desirable location, close to amenities comprising, two reception rooms, fitted kitchen, two double bedrooms, refitted upstairs bathroom, centrally heated & part double glazed, front & rear gardens. IDEAL FIRST PURCHASE!

Offers Around £122,950

Florence Road, SMETHWICK,

Terraced property offered with no onward chain comprising, two reception rooms, fitted kitchen, ground floor bathroom with separate shower, two double bedrooms, centrally heated, front & rear gardens. IDEAL INVESTMENT OR FIRST TIME BUY!

Offers Around £89,950

Honiton Walk, SMETHWICK,

Family home comprising, hallway, cloakroom, through lounge, fitted kitchen, conservatory, three bedrooms, shower room, double glazed and centrally heated, front and rear gardens,parking.

Offers Around £124,950

Thimblemill Road, SMETHWICK,

Extended family home comprising, two reception rooms, refitted kitchen, shower room, conservatory, three bedrooms, refitted family bathroom, D/G and C/H, front and rear gardens, garage, driveway

Offers Around £154,950

Cardinal Close, EDGBASTON,

Modern second floor apartment in desirable location comprising, spacious hallway, reception room, fitted kitchen, bathroom, two bedrooms, double glazed & electric heating, communal grounds & parking.

Offers Around £124,950

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EPC: C

West Bromwich
St. Christopher Close

- Three bed detached
- Quiet cul-de-sac location
- Centrally heated
- Convenient to the M5 (Junction 1)
- Dining room area
- Bathroom with shower

£700pcm

REDUCED

EPC: TBC

Wednesbury
Rachael Gardens

- Three bedroom semi
- Lounge
- Dining area
- Separate breakfast area
- Fitted kitchen with oven & gas hob
- Family bathroom
- Alarm system

£650pcm

EPC: E

Tipton
Watery Lane

- Three bed detached house
- Quiet cul-de-sac location
- Central heating & double glazing
- Landscaped gardens
- Fitted breakfast kitchen

£625pcm

EPC: C

Tipton
Patricia Drive

- Two bed semi
- Alarmed
- Gas central heated
- Double glazed
- Spacious lounge
- Fully fitted breakfast kitchen
- Bathroom with shower

£525pcm

EPC: D

Tividale
City Road

- Three bedroom semi
- Lounge
- Dining room
- Kitchen with cooker
- Family bathroom
- Rear garden

£495pcm

NEW

EPC: D

Sarah Close
Bilston

- Attractive two bed end terraced property
- Gas central heating
- Double glazing
- Conservatory
- Fully fitted kitchen
- Landscaped rear garden
- Off road parking

£550pcm

NEW

EPC: B

Sedgley
North One Mews

- Two bed ground floor apartment
- GCH
- DG
- Kitchen with fitted oven
- En suite shower room

£525pcm

EPC: TBC

Bilston
Harlyn Close

- Two bed terraced house
- Lounge
- Rear garden
- Allocated parking
- Fully fitted kitchen with appliances

£520pcm

EPC: C

Wolverhampton
Essington Way

- One bed ground floor apartment
- Private front door access
- Lounge
- Fully fitted modern kitchen
- Bathroom with shower

£375pcm

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WEDNESBURY

NEW

Swallow Close

Modern 3 bedroom detached property in the wednesbury area near the M6 J9, spacious lounge, central heated and double glazed, offroad parking, available unfurnished.

£650

TIPTON

Whitehouse Street

2 bedroom town house, lounge, kitchen with dining area, central heated and double glazed, first floor bathroom, seperate w.c. Available unfurnished.

£500

WEST BROMWICH

LET

Dartmouth Street

Newly refurbished 3 bedroom property, New kitchen and new bathroom, 2 reception rooms, central heated and double glazed, alarmed. must be viewed.

£550

TIPTON

Andrew Road

Three bedroom property, spacious lounge, double glazed, storage heating, first floor bathroom, unfurnished.

£550

WEST BROMWICH

LET

Sydney Close

3 bedroom property with spacious lounge, ch and dg. Kitchen with dining space. first floor bathroom. off road parking available unfurnished.

£525

Tipton

Springmeadow

Modern 3 bed semi detached property, good size lounge, downstairs w.c, upstairs bathroom and ensuite to master bedroom. Available unfurnished. Garage and off road parking.

£550

WEST BROMWICH

NEW

Brook Street

3 bedroom property, spacious lounge, central heated and double glazed, available unfurnished. Off road parking. Must be viewed

£550

WEST BROMWICH

LET

Elizabeth Road

Very spacious 3 bedroom house, lounge, dining room, first floor bathroom, central heated and double glazed, off road parking, Unfurnished.

£580

WEST BROMWICH

FOR SALE

Wood Lane

3 bedroom end of terrace property, 2 reception rooms, ch and dg. ground floor bathroom with overhead shower. available unfurnished.

£105,000

WEST BROMWICH

LET

Princes Gate

Modern 2 bedroom apartment, near the M5. Large reception room, Double glazed window, storage heating. Communal car park. Security intercom system to entrance. Available unfurnished.

£525

WEST BROMWIVH

LET IN 1 WEEK

Mountbatton Road

Very spacious 1 bedroom apartment in a prime location, good size living room, bedroom, newly fitted kitchen, bathroom with overhead shower, ch and double glazed, designated parking space. Unfurnished.

£450

WALSALL / PEL-

LET IN 1 WEEK

Shireview Road

3 bedroom spacious property, large reception room, breakfast kitchen, down stairs w.c and upstairs bathroom, central heated and double glazed, enclosed rear garden, off road parking, available unfurnished.

£550

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Doulton Road, Rowley Regis
- Detached Property
- Four Bedrooms
- Double Garage
- Off Road Parking
- Downstairs W.C.
- Living Room

OIRO £219,950

Brookfield Way, Tipton
- DETACHED PROPERTY
- AMPLY OFF ROAD PARKING
- THREE RECEPTION ROOMS
- FOUR BEDROOMS
- REAR GARDEN
- OFFICE AREA

OIRO £187,500

Hollies Drive, Wednesbury
- Three Story
- Traditional Semi-detached house
- Entrance Hallway
- Three Reception Rooms
- Fitted Kitchen
- Five Bedrooms

Offers in Excess of £185,000

Aster Way, Walsall
- Three Bedroom
- Detached House
- Well Maintained
- Off Road Parking
- En-suite Bathroom
- Garage

OIRO £174,995

Pitchwood Close, Wednesbury
- Terraced Property
- NO UPWARD CHAIN!
- Three Story
- Three Bedrooms
- Family bathroom
- Kitchen/Diner

OIRO £140,000

Old Park Road, Wednesbury
- Terraced
- Three Bedrooms
- Open Plan Lounge Diner
- Fully Fitted Kitchen
- Downstairs WC
- Family Bathroom

Offers in Excess of £124,950

Tame Street, West Bromwich
- Mid Terrace House
- Two Bedrooms
- Lounge/Diner
- Downstairs WC
- Fully Fitted Kitchen
- Private Parking

Offers in excess of £120,000

Sheldon Avenue, Wednesbury
- Three Bedrooms
- End Terrace
- Fully Refurbished
- Low Maintenance Garden
- Modern Fitted Kitchen
- Lounge

OIRO £119,950

Salter Road, Tipton
- MID TERRACE
- THREE BEDROOM
- KITCHEN/DINER
- MODERN FITTED BATHROOM
- ENTRANCE HALLWAY
- REAR GARDEN

Offers in Excess of £105,000

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SILVER — MIDLANDS ESTATE AGENCY of the YEAR 2014 — MEDIUM AGENCY — THE SUNDAY TIMES / THE TIMES

BRONZE — FRANCHISE ESTATE AGENCY of the YEAR 2014 — IN ASSOCIATION WITH — THE SUNDAY TIMES / THE TIMES

"Judges Comments: The directors' knowledge is exemplary and this is filtered down to the rest of the team. Customers using Goodchilds can feel assured that they're in good hands.

Toll End Road, Tipton
- Terraced Property
- Three Bedrooms
- Two reception rooms
- Double Glazing
- Gas Central Heating
- Rear Garden

OIRO £99,950

Garrington Street, Wednesbury
- Terraced house
- Darlaston area
- Entrance hallway
- Lounge
- Dining room
- Fitted kitchen

OIRO £95,000

Thunderbolt Way, Tipton
- Second Floor
- Entrance Hallway
- Two Bedrooms
- Family Bathroom
- Lounge
- Fitted Kitchen

OIRO £94,950

Queen Street, Wednesbury
- Semi Detached
- Three Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- Fully Fitted Kitchen
- Family Bathroom
- Rear Garden

Offers in Excess of £90,000

Damson Wharf, Tipton
- Three Bedroom Three Storey
- Lounge
- Kitchen
- Family Bathroom & Downstairs WC
- Two sold one left
- Double Glazing and Gas Central Heating
- Will Bring £560PCM
- Garage & Off Road Parking

Offers in Excess of £88,000

Mark Road, Wednesbury
- TERRACED PROPERTY
- THREE BEDROOMS
- KITCHEN
- DOWNSTAIRS BATHROOM
- UPSTAIRS SHOWER ROOM
- OFF ROAD PARKING
- REAR GARDEN
- DOUBLE GLAZING

Offers in Excess of £87,000

Holyhead Road, Wednesbury
- UPPER FLOOR FLAT
- ENTRANCE HALLWAY
- TWO BEDROOMS
- EN-SUITE TO MASTER
- FAMILY BATHROOM
- LOUNGE/DINER

OIRO £85,000

Rugeley Close, Tipton
- FIRST FLOOR
- ONE BEDROOM
- FITTED BATHROOM
- LOUNGE
- FITTED KITCHEN
- DOUBLE GLAZING

OIRO £59,950

Rough Hay Road, Wednesbury
- EXTENDED SEMI DETACHED HOUSE
- THREE STORYS
- ENTRANCE HALLWAY
- KITCHEN/BREAKFAST BAR
- CONSERVATORY
- DOWNSTAIRS W.C

OIRO £179,950

Hall Street East, Wednesbury
- MID TERRACE
- THREE BEDROOMS
- TWO BATHROOMS
- KITCHEN
- LOUNGE
- LOUNGE/DINER

OIRO £130,000

Wills Avenue, West Bromwich
- END TERRACED PROPERTY
- THREE BEDROOMS
- ONE RECEPTION ROOM
- GARAGE
- FAMILY BATHROOM
- DOWNSTAIRS W.C.

OIRO £120,000

Moxley Road, Wednesbury
- MID TERRACE
- THREE BEDROOMS
- LOUNGE
- DINER
- DOWNSTAIRS BATHROOM
- FITTED KITCHEN

OIRO £89,950

Willingsworth Road, Wednesfield
- Mid Terrace
- Bathroom
- Off Road Parking
- Rear Garden
- Cul-De-Sac Location
- Four Bedrooms

OIRO £89,950

Holyhead Road, Wednesbury
- UPPER FLOOR FLAT
- TWO BEDROOMS
- ENSUITE
- FAMILY BATHROOM
- LOUNGE
- KITCHEN

OIRO £87,950

Booth Street, Wednesbury
- TERRACED PROPERTY
- ONE RECEPTION ROOM
- TWO BEDROOMS
- FULLY FITTED KITCHEN
- REAR GARDEN
- SECURE REAR PARKING

Offers in Excess of £84,000

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Rough Road, Birmingham
- Three Bedroom Mid Terrace House
- Gas Central heating
- Double Glazing
- Two Reception Rooms
- Extended Kitchen
- DHSS Considered

Monthly Rental Of £595

Woodruff Way, Walsall
- Two Bedroom Terraced House
- Double Glazing
- Gas Central Heating
- Off Road Parking
- Rear garden
- SORRY NO DHSS

Monthly Rental Of £575

Asquith Drive, Oldbury
- Two Bedroom Semi Detached House
- Double Glazing
- Gas Central Heating
- Fully Fitted Kitchen
- Patio Doors To Garden
- SORRY NO DHSS

Monthly Rental Of £575

Broadwaters Road, Wednesbury
- Three Bedroom Semi Detached House
- Double Glazing
- Gas Central Heating
- Off Road Parking
- Large Rear Garden
- SORRY NO DHSS

Monthly Rental Of £550

Alder Road, Wednesbury
- FOUR Bedrooms
- Semi-Detached House
- Cul-De-Sac Location
- Extensive Kitchen
- Off Road Parking
- SORRY NO DHSS

Monthly Rental Of £550

Wesley Grove, Wednesbury
- Three bedroom Semi detached House
- Double Glazing
- Gas Central heating
- Front and Rear gardens
- Recently Refurbished
- SORRY NO DHSS

Monthly Rental Of £475

Carden Close, West Bromwich
- Two Bedroom Mid Terraced
- Large Rear Garden
- Front And Rear Access
- Fitted Kitchen
- Double Glazing
- SORRY NO DHSS

Monthly Rental Of £475

Talbot House, Wednesbury
- First Floor Apartment
- Central Location
- Close to Bus Station
- Electric Heating
- Off Road Parking
- DHSS ACCEPTED

Monthly Rental Of £325

Myvod Road, Wednesbury
- Ground Floor One Bedroom Studio Apartment
- Double Glazing
- Electric Heating
- Brand New
- Fitted Kitchen

Monthly Rental Of £325

The Parade, Dudley
- Studio Apartment
- Off Road Parking
- Gas Central Heating
- Double Glazing
- All Bills included (Except Council Tax)
- DHSS ACCEPTED

Monthly Rental Of £350

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9 DAY CHALLENGE

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Handley Street, West Midlands
- Two Bedroom Mid Terrace House
- Double Glazing
- Gas Central Heating
- Kitchen/Dinner
- Large Garden
- SORRY NO DHSS

Monthly Rental Of £475

Bedford Street, Tipton
- Two Bedroom Second Floor Apartment
- Double Glazing
- Gas Central Heating
- Allocated Parking
- Fully Fitted kitchen
- SORRY NO DHSS

Monthly Rental Of £475

Tame Crossing, Wednesbury
- Modern Apartment
- Two Bedrooms
- Lounge/Diner
- Fully Fitted Kitchen
- Family Bathroom
- Double Glazing and Electric Heating

Monthly Rental Of £475

Princes End, High Street
- One Bedroom First Floor Flat
- Double Glazing
- Gas Central Heating
- Fully Fitted Kitchen
- Open Plan Kitchen/Diner
- DHSS ACCEPTED

Monthly Rental Of £350

Springhead, West Midlands
- One Bedroom Split level Flat
- Off Road Parking
- Close to amenities
- Fitted Kitchen
- Perfect first Home
- DHSS ACCEPTED

Monthly Rental Of £350

Dudley Port, Tipton
- Two Bedroom Flat
- Double Glazing
- Central Location
- Gas central Heating
- Off Road Parking
- SORRY NO DHSS

Monthly Rental Of £375

Dunkirk Avenue, West Bromwich
- Studio Apartment
- Off Road Parking
- Gas Central Heating
- Double Glazing
- All Bills included (Except Council Tax)
- DHSS ACCEPTED

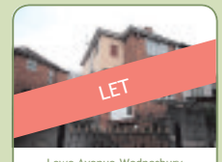
Monthly Rental Of £375

King Street, Bilston
- Two Bedroomed Upper Floor Flat
- Spacious Throughout
- Modern Kitchen and Bathrooms
- Popular Location
- DHSS Considered
- Call Today!

Monthly Rental Of £375

Bromford Lane, West Bromwich
- Studio Apartment
- Off Road Parking
- Gas Central Heating
- Double Glazing
- All Bills included (Except Council Tax)
- DHSS ACCEPTED

Monthly Rental Of £400



Lowe Avenue, Wednesbury
- Three Bedroom Semi Detached House
- Double Glazing
- Gas Central Heating
- Off Road Parking
- Close to St Thomas More School
- DHSS CONSIDERD

Monthly Rental Of £450

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Improved and extended three-bed family home

A MUCH improved and extended family home in Throne Crescent, Rowley Regis is for sale through Love Your Post Code with offers in excess of £139,950 being invited.

With a block paved driveway and easily manageable gardens at the front and rear, it has a extensive porch, an L-shaped lounge and an attractive extended kitchen/diner. To the first floor floor there are three bedrooms and a family shower room.

The property makes a desirable family home offering great quality fixtures and fittings throughout. Call 0800 8620871 or visitwww.loveyourpostcode.com

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CHURCH VALE, B71 4DD

- A Detached Bungalow
- Three Bedrooms
- Planning For Extension
- Freehold, No Upward Chain
- EPC TBC, Corner Plot

£229,950

BAGNALL STREET, B70 6PN

- A Detached Property,Three bedrooms
- Three Reception Rooms
- Central Heating
- Double Garage, Driveway,

£249,950

SQUIRES WALK, WS10 9DB

- A Semi Detached Property
- Sought After Location
- Central Heating & Double Glazing
- Freehold, Garage & Driveway
- EPC Rating D

£249,950

HEATH LANE, B71 2BW

- A Detached Property
- Three Bedrooms
- Extended
- Through Lounge
- EPC RATING E, Freehold

£203,950

WYNDMILL CRESCENT, B71 3RB

- A Detached Bungalow
- Two Bedrooms
- Majority Double Glazed
- Central Heating, Conservatory
- EPC TBC, Freehold

£184,950

REMEMBRANCE ROAD, WS10 0TE

- A Semi Detached Property
- Three Bedrooms
- Central Heating & Double Glazed
- Conservatory
- EPC RATING D, Freehold

£139,950

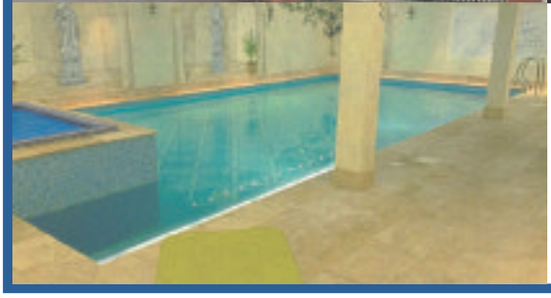
HILLARY AVENUE, WS10 0HE

- A Semi Detached Property
- Three Bedrooms
- Front And Rear Gardens
- Lounge, Off Road Parking
- EPC RATING D, Freehold

£124,950

STOUR STREET, B70 9AX

PROPERTY OF THE WEEK



- **A truly outstanding detached family home**
- **Award winning leisure complex**
- **Indoor heated swimming pool and gym**
- **Four bedrooms with two en suites**
- **Living Room, Dining Area, Office**
- **Kitchen, Laundry, Entertainment Room**
- **Gated frontage, ample parking and garage**
- **Stamp duty and legal fees paid by vendor**

£469,950

WALSALL ROAD, B71 3JD

- A Terraced Property
- Three Bedrooms
- External Double Glazing
- Central Heating

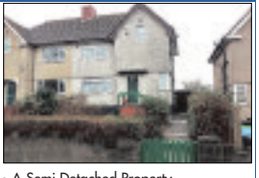
£109,950

MORRISON ROAD, DY4 7PX

- A Semi Detached Property
- Three Bedrooms, No Upward Chain
- Two Reception Rooms
- Central Heating, Freehold
- EPC Rating D

£109,950

HYDES ROAD, WS10 0DF



- A Semi Detached Property
- Three Bedrooms
- Central Heating
- Garage, Off Road Parking To Rear
- EPC RATING E, Freehold

£119,950

SHERIDAN STREET, B71 4EF

- A Mid Terrace Property
- Two/Three Bedroomed
- Two Reception Rooms
- Downstairs Shower Room
- EPC RATING F, Freehold

£99,950

CRANKHALL LANE, WS10 0DY

- An End Terraced Property
- Two Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- Central Heating
- EPC RATING E

£99,950

CANTERBURY ROAD, B71 2LB

- A Semi Detached Property
- Two Bedrooms
- Electric Heating
- Double Glazing
- EPC RATING D, Freehold

£95,000

POMMEL CLOSE, WS5 4QE

- A Ground Floor Flat
- Two Bedrooms
- Central Heating, Double Glazed
- Conservatory
- EPC RATING C, Leasehold

£78,950

Goldfield Court, Dartmouth Street,

- A Second Floor Apartment
- Double Glazing
- Two Bedrooms
- Over 50's Residential Living
- Leasehold, EPC Rating B

£22,950 25% Shared Ownership

REFORM STREET, B70 7PE

- A Semi Detached Property
- Three Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- Majority Double Glazed
- EPC TBC Freehold

£159,950

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132 Walsall Road, Stone Cross, West Bromwich, B71 3HP

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NEW

Tame Road, Oldbury

Well Presented Three Bedroomed End Terrace, Walking Distance To Local Amenities, Local Schools, Doctors Surgery. Ideal First Time Purchase. EPC - TBC

- Gas Central Heating
- Double Glazing
- Two Reception Rooms
- Re-Fitted Kitchen
- Three Bedrooms
- Bathroom, Separate W/C
- Gardens To Front & Rear
- Viewing Essential, No Chain

Offers In The Region Of £109,950

NEW PRICE

Birch Road, Oldbury

Unique Opportunity To Acquire This Charming Spacious Two Bedroomed Detached Bungalow. Most Popular Residential Location, In Need Of Some Updating. No Chain EPC - C

- Gas Central Heating
- Double Glazing (where specified)
- Spacious Lounge, Fitted Kitchen
- Double Glazed Conservatory
- Two Double Bedrooms
- Bathroom
- Good Sized Rear Garden
- Rear Concrete Garage

Offers In The Region Of £185,000

NEW PRICE

Bleakhouse Road, Oldbury

Deceptively Spacious Three Bedroomed Traditional Style Detached, Walking Distance To Local Amenities, Easy Access To Good Local Schools. EPC - E

- Gas Central Heating
- Double Glazing
- Two Reception Rooms
- Kitchen, Conservatory
- Downstairs W/C
- Three Bedrooms
- Off Road Parking
- NO UPWARD CHAIN

Offers In The Region Of £179,950

NEW PRICE

Kendall Rise, Oldbury

Superb Three Bedroomed Detached Property, Situated Within This Popular Residential Cul-De-Sac, Easy Access To Local Schools, No Upward Chain EPC - D

- Gas Central Heating
- Double Glazing
- Two Reception Rooms
- Kitchen
- Downstairs W/C, Utility Area
- Garage, Off Road Parking
- Gardens To Front & Rear
- In Need Of Some Cosmetic Updating

Offers In The Region Of £173,950

NEW PRICE

Edward Road, Oldbury

Spacious Traditional Style Three Bedroomed Semi, Most Popular Residential Location, Catchment Area For Good Local Schools. EPC - D

- Gas Central Heating
- Double Glazing
- Two Reception Rooms
- Kitchen
- Pleasant & Well Tended Rear Garden
- Garage With Driveway
- NO CHAIN

Offers In The Region Of £169,950

NEW PRICE

Elm Terrace, Tividale

Superb Three Bedroomed Traditional Style Semi, Easy Access To Local Amenities, M5/M6 Motorway Networks, Ideal First Time Purchase. EPC - E

- Gas Central Heating
- Double Glazing
- Through Lounge/Dining Area
- Kitchen
- Three Bedrooms
- Bathroom
- Rear Garden
- No Chain

Offers In The Region Of £124,950

NEW PRICE

Farm Road, Oldbury

Well Presented Extremely Spacious Three Bedroomed Traditional Style Terrace, Excellent First Time Purchase. EPC - D

- Gas Central Heating
- Double Glazing
- Two Reception Rooms
- Fitted Kitchen
- Downstairs Bathroom
- Three Good Sized Bedrooms
- Rear Garden
- Viewing Absolutely Essential

Offers In The Region Of £99,000

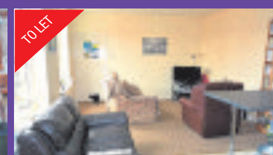
TO LET

Sabell Road, Smethwick

Deceptively Spacious Refurbished Traditional Style Terrace, Walking Distance To Local Smethwick High Street. EPC - E

- New Gas Central Heating
- Double Glazing
- Two Reception Rooms
- Re-Fitted Kitchen
- Re-Fitted Downstairs Bathroom
- Two Double Bedrooms
- Rear Garden
- Realistically Priced For Early Let

TO LET: £525 PCM



TO LET

Regis House,Cradley Heath

Extremely Spacious Well Presented One Bedroomed Second Floor Flat, In Excellent Order Throughout, Walking Distance To Local Amenities. EPC - E

- Spacious Second Floor Flat
- Gas Central Heating
- Spacious Lounge
- Open Plan Kitchen With Cooker & Fridge/Freezer
- Bathroom With Shower
- Off Road Parking
- Realistically Priced For Early Let

TO LET: £340 PCM

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New

OLDBURY, Birchley Park Avenue

Spacious, modern, well presented, 4 BED DETACHED occupying a pleasant position upon this popular development, having gas radiator heating, majority double glazing and comprising :- Entrance hall (with downstairs wc off), delightful lounge, dining/sitting room, fitted breakfast kitchen (having integral oven/hob), utility, 4 bedrooms (master with shower room en-suite), house bathroom, garage and pleasant rear garden. MUST BE VIEWED. EPC D. BEARWOOD OFFICE

Offers around £234,950

New

TIPTON, Oxford Way (close to Foxyards)

SPACIOUS, Freehold, gas centrally heated, double glazed detached in favoured 'Foxes Hollow' development comprising; porch, hall, two stores, dining room, lounge with access to family room beyond (former garage), kitchen, utility section. Principle bedroom with a shower room en suite, three further bedrooms, bathroom. Landscaped garden. EPC: C. SEDGLEY

Offers in the Region of £214,950

New

BEARWOOD, Wigorn Road

Delightfully presented, much improved, 3 bed mid terrace situated within this popular location, convenient for Bearwood Town Centre and Lightwoods Park, having gas radiator heating, double glazing and comprising :- Entrance hall, dining room, attractive lounge, re-fitted kitchen, 3 bedrooms, shower room, and pleasant rear garden. VIEWING ESSENTIAL. EPC D. BEARWOOD OFFICE

Offers around £154,950

New

OLDBURY, Shrublands Aveune

Attractively presented, thoughtfully improved, 3 bedroomed semi detached property occupying a pleasant cul-de-sac position, having double glazing, gas radiator heating and comprising :- Entrance hall, delightful lounge, dining kitchen, attractive conservatory, 3 bedrooms, bathroom, off road parking, pleasant rear garden and good sized Garage/useful store at the rear. VIEWING ESSENTIAL. EPC E. BEARWOOD OFFICE

Offers around £149,950

New

TIPTON, Henlow Close, Foxyards

COMPREHENSIVLY REFURBISHED! Gas centrally heated (combi), double glazed, well insulated Freehold semi detached bungalow presented almost 'as new' in cul de sac. Re-decorated accommodation provides entrance hallway, re-equipped kitchen, L shape living/dining room, inner hallway, two bedrooms (one with wardrobes), bathroom, Carport, garage, garden. EPC: E. SEDGLEY

Offers in the Region of £147,500

New

TIPTON, Oval Road

Comparatively spacious, Freehold, mostly double glazed, gas centrally heated (combi boiler) semi detached with potential occupying larger than average plot with off road parking comprising; canopy porch, reception hall, lounge, through dining kitchen. Three bedrooms, bathroom. Lobby. Large garden. EPC: T.B.A. SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £95,000

WARLEY WOODS AREA, OLDBURY, Harborne Road

An opportunity to acquire a well presented 2 bedroomed bungalow, occupying a pleasant position within this popular neighbourhood, convenient for Warley Woods, having double glazing and comprising :- Entrance hall, delightful lounge, fitted kitchen, side passage/utility, 2 bedrooms, bathroom, off road parking and pleasant rear garden. NO UPWARD CHAIN. EPC G. BEARWOOD OFFICE

New price **WAS £215,000 NOW £204,995**

BARTLEY GREEN, Napton Grove

A deceptively spacious, well presented, 3 bedroomed semi detached conveniently situated, having gas radiator heating, double glazing and comprising :- Porch, Entrance hall, delightful spacious lounge, super re-fitted dining kitchen (with integral oven/hob and dishwasher), utility, downstairs w.c, 3 bedrooms, bathroom, and pleasant rear garden. EPC D. BEARWOOD OFFICE

Now available **Offers around £129,950**

OLDBURY, Merton Close

Deceptively spacious, well presented 2/3 bedroomed 3 storey town house occupying a pleasant cul-de-sac position, having gas radiator heating, double glazing and comprising :- Entrance hall (with downstairs wc off), study/potential bed 3, first floor offering spacious lounge/dining area and re-fitted breakfast kitchen (having integrated appliances), and second floor providing 2 double bedrooms and attractive bathroom. Garage and pleasant garden. EPC D. BEARWOOD OFFICE

New price **WAS £119,950 NOW £115,000**

LANESFIELD, Hessian Close

Much improved mostly uPVC double glazed gas centrally heated semi-detached comprising: hall, lounge, dining room, kitchen, attached utility,3 bedrooms, bathroom, neat garden. No Chain - EPC:D SEDGLEY

Offers in the Region of £91,950

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MONMOUTH ROAD, SMETHWICK

EXTENDED & SPACIOUS home with DOUBLE GARAGE to rear & SOUTHERLY aspect. 29ft lounge diner & 18ft breakfast kitchen. UPVC CONSERVATORY & separate utility to rear. Benefits from d/s shower room WITH SAUNA!! 5 GOOD size bedrooms & LARGE family bathroom. Blockpaved driveway to front. GCH & UPVC DG. EPC rating: D Ref: D1580

£289,950 Ref: D1580

NARROW LANE, HALESOWEN

WELL PRESENTED detached home with 24ft GARAGE. Potential to extend. REFITTED kitchen diner with built in appliances. 13ft lounge to front & d/s WC. 3 good size bedrooms & family bathroom on 1st floor. Lawn rear garden with PRIVATE SW aspect. UPVC DG & GCH fitted. EPC rating: E Ref: D1619

£237,500 Ref: D1619

WEYMOOR ROAD, HARBORNE

WELL PRESENTED & EXTENDED home in sought after road. GENEROUS ground floor ACCOMMODATION, 17FT Fitted kitchen, 21FT lounge, sep. dining room & further sitting room (POSSIBLE BED 4 & HAS WC OFF). REFITTED BATHROOM with white suite & 3 bedrooms. Gardens having SOUTHERLY ASPECT. Block paved parking to front. Majority UPVC DBG & fascias, GCH. EPC rating: D Ref: D1612

£245,000 Ref: D1612

WHITLEY COURT RD, QUINTON

EXTENDED home with BLOCKPAVED driveway in SOUGHT AFTER tree lined road. REFITTED 16ft breakfast kitchen & 26ft lounge diner. REFITTED family bathroom & WC with white suite & 3 bedrooms. LOVELY garden having SOUTHERLY aspect. GCH & majority UPVC DG. EPC rating: D Ref: D1609

£215,000 Ref: D1609

ADMIRALS WAY, ROWLEY REGIS

LARGE detached home in CUL-DE-SAC position. 14ft lounge leading to separate dining room & UPVC CONSERVATORY. Kitchen to rear & d/s WC to front. Master bedroom with EN-SUITE shower room. 2 further bedrooms & family bathroom. 16ft garage with driveway. LARGE rear garden with private aspect. Majoirty UPVC DG & GCH. EPC rating: TBC Ref: D1604

£185,000 Ref: D1604

WOLVERHAMPTON RD, OLDBURY

WELL MAINTAINED 3 bed semi with SIDE GARAGE & OFF ROAD PARKING. Kitchen, Lounge & Separate Dining room. 3 Bedrooms & bathroom on 1st floor. UPVC DBG & GCH (combi boiler). Driveway and parking to front, WELL PROPORTIONED REAR GARDEN. EPC Rating: D Ref: D1613

£179,950 Ref: D1613

PARK AVENUE, ROWLEY REGIS

EXTENDED home with 3 DOUBLE bedrooms. REFITTED 12ft kitchen leading to CONSERVATORY. 18ft lounge diner & separate study. Fitted bedroom furniture in bedroom 1. REFITTED family bathroom & REFITTED shower room. GARAGE & driveway. UPVC DG & GCH fitted. EPC rating: D Ref: D1608

£167,950 Ref: D1608

FIRSBY ROAD, QUINTON

LARGE home with DRIVEWAY to front & garage to rear. 19ft8 lounge diner & 13ft breakfast kitchen with lean to conservatory to rear. Benefits from BOTH d/s bathroom & u/s shower room. 3 bedrooms on 1st floor. EXTENSIVE lawn rear garden with private aspect. GCH & maj UPVC DG. EPC rating: D Ref: D1614

£134,950 Ref: D1614

LONG LANE, HALESOWEN

LARGE terraced home with 3 bedrooms & ATTIC ROOM. Having 2 reception rooms, 10ft kitchen & REFITTED d/s bathroom. Master bedroom having EN-SUITE WC. Pleasant rear garden with SUMMER HOUSE. GCH & majority UPVC DG. EPC rating: E Ref: D1617

£129,950 Ref: D1617

HIGGINS LANE, QUINTON

SEMI DETACHED home with GARAGE. EXTENDED kitchen/Diner & Lounge. Bathroom & 3 bedrooms on 1st floor. UPVC double glazing & gas central heating fitted. Gardens to front and rear. EPC rating: TBC Ref: D1616

£127,500 Ref: D1616

WEST STREET, ROWLEY REGIS

NO UPWARD CHAIN - modern semi-detached home with DRIVEWAY/off road parking on CORNER PLOT position. 12ft lounge & modern fitted kitchen to rear. D/S WC. 2 DOUBLE bedrooms & shower room. Low maintenance rear garden. UPVC DG & GCH fitted. EPC rating: C Ref: D1618

£125,000 Ref: D1618

GLADYS ROAD, SMETHWICK

VERY WELL PRESENTED terraced home. REFIITED 12ft kitchen & 2 separate reception rooms. REFITTED downstairs bathroom with white suite. 2 DOUBLE bedrooms on 1st floor. UPVC DG & GCH fitted, Extensive lawn rear garden. EPC rating: D Ref: D1615

£119,950 Ref: D1615

HURST GREEN RD, HALESOWEN

NO UPWARD CHAIN - Modern bungalow with GARAGE & blockpaved driveway. Lounge leading to fitted kitchen. DOUBLE bedroom with wardrobes & bathroom. Gardens to front & rear. Gas central heating fitted. EPC rating: D Ref: D1611

£114,950 Ref: D1611

THRONE RD, ROWLEY REGIS

WELL PRESENTED home with BLOCKPAVED driveway to front. 14ft lounge with FITTED kitchen & utility room. REFITTED family bathroom with white suite. 3 GOOD SIZE bedrooms. Lawned rear garden with SW aspect. UPVC DG & GCH fitted. EPC rating: D Ref: D1610

£114,950 Ref: D1610

BRETT YOUNG CLOSE, HALESOWEN

WELL PRESENTED 1st floor apartment in CUL-DE-SAC position. Ideal access to Halesowen Town Centre & the M5. 17ft open plan lounge diner/FITTED kitchen. 2 bedrooms & bathroom with WHITE SUITE. Gas central heating & UPVC DG fitted. Allocated parking. EPC rating: B Ref: D1606

£110,000 Ref: D1606

RIDGEFIELD ROAD, HALESOWEN

NO UPWARD CHAIN - Semi-detached home with SOUTHERLY rear garden & DRIVEWAY to front garden. Lounge to front & kitchen diner to rear plus d/s WC. 2 DOUBLE bedrooms & bathroom on 1st floor. UPVC double glazing fitted. GCH with Worcester boiler. EPC rating: D Ref: D1602

£110,000 Ref: D1602

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NEW

16 WATERWAYS DRIVE, OLDBURY

- First floor flat
- Electric storage heating
- Double glazing
- Two bedrooms
- Spacious lounge/dining room
- Refitted shower room
- Allocated parking
- Ideal FTBs or Investors
- ENERGY RATING : D

OFFERS BASED ON £76,950

VIEWINGS BEARWOOD OFFICE

NEW

41 WESTFIELD ROAD, SMETHWICK

- Mid-terraced property
- PVC double glazed
- Gas centrally heated
- 3 bedrooms
- Two reception rooms
- Bathroom & separate WC
- Ideal FTBs
- ENERGY RATING : D

OFFERS BASED ON £94,950

VIEWINGS BEARWOOD OFFICE

NEW

59 WOODLANDS STREET, SMETHWICK

- Mid-terrace property
- Close to Cape Hill
- Part PVC double glazed
- Part gas centrally heated
- Two double bedrooms
- Two reception rooms
- Downstairs cloakroom
- Needing refurbishment
- ENERGY RATING : E

ASKING PRICE £80,000

VIEWINGS BEARWOOD OFFICE

NEW

5 DUNSFORD ROAD, BEARWOOD

- Gas centrally heated
- Virtually PVC double glazed
- Two double bedrooms
- Lounge & dining room
- Ideal FTBs
- ENERGY RATING : E

0FFERS BASED ON £124,950

VIEWINGS BEARWOOD OFFICE

NEW

10 DAWSON STREET, BEARWOOD

- Easy access to city centre
- Gas centrally heated
- Virtually PVC double glazed
- Three bedrooms
- Two reception rooms
- Bathroom & shower room
- Kitchen/ breakfast room
- Study
- Ideal FTBs
- ENERGY RATING : E

OFFERS BASED ON £119,950

VIEWINGS BEARWOOD OFFICE

NEW

22 ANDERSON ROAD, BEARWOOD

- Gas centrally heated
- PVC double glazed
- 2 double bedrooms
- Spacious bathroom
- Dining room & Lounge
- Open plan kitchen
- Neatly laid out garden
- Inspection to be appreciated
- ENERGY RATING : D

OFFERS BASED ON £154,950

VIEWINGS BEARWOOD OFFICE

REDUCED

128 HARBORNE ROAD BEARWOOD

- Superbly situated individual detached residence
- Excellent family accommodation or investment with consent for multi-occupation
- Gas central heating
- Directly facing Warley Woods
- 6 bedrooms as private house or 7 bedrooms for multi-occupation
- 18ft lounge and separate dining room
- Cloaks/shower room
- 20ft x 14ft fully fitted dining kitchen
- Sun lounge
- Easily maintained gardens and garage included
- ENERGY RATING : E

OFFERS BASED ON £449,000

VIEWINGS BEARWOOD OFFICE

2 BRANDHALL COURT, OLDBURY

- Ground floor flat
- Kitchen
- Spacious lounge
- Two bedrooms
- Single garage
- Mature communal gardens
- Ideal FTBs
- ENERGY RATING : D

OFFERS BASED ON £74,950

VIEWINGS BEARWOOD OFFICE

PUBLIC AUCTION
AT
THIMBLEMILL RECREATION & ENTERTAINMENT CENTRE
THIMBLEMILL ROAD,
SMETHWICK. B67 6NR
ON
MONDAY 1st JUNE 2015
AT 6.30PM

		Anticipated Price Range
Lot 1:	26 WILMINGTON ROAD, QUINTON B32 1DX Traditional freehold 3 bedroomed semi-detached in need of refurbishment	£ 125 - 135,000
Lot 2:	26 WESTON ROAD, BEARWOOD B67 5HH Freehold 2 bedroomed mid-terraced, in need of modernisation	£ circa. 90,000
Lot 3:	85 SALOP ROAD, OLDBURY B68 9AE 3 bedroomed end town house being gas centrally heated and double glazed	£ 85 - 90,000
Lot 4:	24 ARDEN GROVE, OLDBURY B69 4SX Well presented mid-terraced property, centrally heated & double glazed	£ 75 - 80,000
Lot 5:	64 HAMILTON ROAD, BEARWOOD B67 5QF Freehold semi-detached with 3 bedrooms, needing cosmetic improvement	£ 85 - 90,000
Lot 6:	1 EMBASSY DRIVE, OLDBURY B69 2ER Freehold 3 bedroomed end town house requiring improvement	£ 70 - 80,000
Lot 7:	36 CANALSIDE, WINSON GREEN B18 4SN Beautifully refurbished freehold 3bedroomed semi in waterside setting	£ 80 - 85,000
Lot 8:	36 PARKFIELD ROAD, OLDBURY B68 8PS Freehold 3 bedroomed semi-detached in need of general improvement	£ 90 - 100,000
Lot 9:	58 CORNWALL AVENUE, OLDBURY B68 0SW Freehold 3 bedroomed town house needing improvement	£ 75 - 80,000
Lot 10:	4 HOWFIELD COURT, 395 GILLOTT ROAD, EDGBASTON B16 9LL Spacious 2 bedroomed flat with garage, ideal investment	£ 60 - 70,000
Lot 11:	78 GALTON ROAD, BEARWOOD B67 5JU 3 bedroomed terraced, in need of modernisation	£ 120 - 130,000
Lot 12:	15 DAWSON STREET, SMETHWICK B66 4JB Traditional 2 bedroomed terraced, requiring modernisation	£ 75 - 80,000
Lot 13:	RESIDENTIAL BUILDING PLOT REAR OF 163 ABBEY ROAD, BEARWOOD B67 5LX Freehold building plot with planning permission for 2 bedroomed detached dormer bungalow	£ 45 - 50,000
Lot 14:	78 LIGHTWOODS ROAD, BEARWOOD B67 5BE Freehold 2 bedroomed mid-terraced villa, needing some cosmetic improvement	£ 90 - 95,000
Lot 15:	THUREE HOUSE, 221 ABBEY ROAD, BEARWOOD B67 5NN Individual freehold 3 bedroomed corner residence, in need of sympathetic improvement	£ 210 - 220,000

5 LOUIS COURT, SOUTH ROAD, SMETHWICK

- Ground/first floor maisonette
- Part double glazed
- Electric storage heating
- Two bedrooms
- In need of refurbishment
- EPC : D

OFFERS BASED ON £49,950

Viewing Bearwood Office

33 HICKORY DRIVE, EDGBASTON

- Quiet cul-de-sac off Willow Avenue
- Easy access to Birmingham city centre
- Ground floor 2 bedroomed maisonette
- PVC double glazed
- Refitted fully tiled shower room
- Ideal FTBs
- ENERGY RATING : E

OFFERS BASED ON £99,950

VIEWINGS BEARWOOD OFFICE

102 POPLAR ROAD, BEARWOOD

- Mid-terraced property
- Gas centrally heated
- PVC double glazed
- 3 beds & first floor bathroom
- Vestibule & hallway
- Lounge & dining room
- Kitchen & utility
- Downstairs bathroom
- Off-street parking at rear
- ENERGY RATING : E

OFFERS BASED ON £187,950

VIEWINGS BEARWOOD OFFICE

29 STANLEY ROAD, OLDBURY

- Extended semi-detached property
- Gas centrally heated & PVC double glazed
- Three bedrooms
- Spacious lounge and dining room
- Splendid refitted kitchen/breakfast room
- Neatly laid out garden to the rear
- Off-street parking for two cars
- INTERNAL INSPECTION TO BE APPRECIATED
- ENERGY RATING : E

OFFERS BASED ON £165,000

Viewings Bearwood Office

3,316 HAGLEY ROAD, EDGBASTON

- First floor one bedroomed flat
- Centrally heated
- Communal gardens
- Ideal for FTBs or investors
- ENERGY RATING : D

OFFERS BASED ON £87,500

Viewing Bearwood Office

20 FERNDALE ROAD, OLDBURY

- End town house
- Part PVC double glazed and Gas centrally heated
- Three bedrooms and bathroom
- Hall, two reception rooms and kitchen
- Downstairs cloakroom
- Neatly laid out gardens to front and rear
- Off-street parking and car port
- In need of some improvement
- ENERGY RATING : C

OFFERS BASED ON £119,950

VIEWINGS BEARWOOD OFFICE

58 TALBOT ROAD, BEARWOOD

- Superbly presented & recently refurbished
- Gas centrally heated, double glazed and alarmed
- Two double bedrooms
- Bathroom with double shower compartment & bath
- Lounge, dining room and superbly presented kitchen
- Neatly laid out garden to the rear
- Ideal FTBs
- INTERNAL INSPECTION A MUST
- ENERGY RATING : D

OFFERS BASED ON £139,500

VIEWINGS BEARWOOD OFFICE

50 FARM ROAD, OLDBURY

- Ideal FTBs
- Gas centrally heated
- PVC double glazed
- 2 bedrooms & bathroom
- Two reception rooms
- Kitchen
- ENERGY RATING : E

OFFERS BASED ON £94,950

VIEWINGS BEARWOOD OFFICE

1 MOUNT PLEASANT, OLDBURY

- Superbly presented & refurbished end terrace
- Gas centrally heated
- PVC double glazed
- Two double bedrooms
- Two reception rooms
- Expensively equipped kitchen
- Fully tiled bathroom
- Additional cloakroom
- Ideal FTBs
- Simply - MUST SEE!
- ENERGY RATING : D

OFFERS BASED ON £119,950

VIEWINGS BEARWOOD OFFICE

7 WIGORN ROAD, BEARWOOD

- Three bedrooms
- First floor shower room
- Hallway with minton tiled floor
- Two reception rooms
- Refitted kitchen
- Inspection to be appreciated
- ENERGY RATING : D

OFFERS BASED ON £154,950

VIEWINGS BEARWOOD OFFICE

116 POPLAR AVENUE, EDGBASTON

- Deceptively spacious family accommodation
- Gas centrally heated
- Mahogany double glazing
- SIX bedrooms
- Fully tiled bathroom & Downstairs shower room
- Two reception rooms
- Refitted kitchen/ dining room
- Utility/laundry room
- Spacious garden to the rear
- INTERNAL INSPECTION TO BE APPRECIATED
- ENERGY RATING : F

OFFERS BASED ON 249,950

Viewing Bearwood Office

5 SCRIBBANS CLOSE, SMETHWICK

- Three bedroomed maisonette
- Gas centrally heated
- Fully tiled bathroom
- In need of improvement
- ENERGY RATING : F

OFFERS BASED ON £51,950

Viewings Bearwood Office

4 LARA GROVE, TIPTON

- Modern town house
- Gas centrally heated
- Double glazed
- 2 double bedrooms
- First floor bathroom
- Spacious lounge
- Off-street parking
- Ideal FTBs or Investors
- ENERGY RATING : C

OFFERS BASED ON £110,000

VIEWINGS BEARWOOD OFFICE

5 CLARENDON ROAD, SMETHWICK

- Well presented
- Two double bedrooms
- Two living rooms
- Gas centrally heated
- PVC double glazed
- NO CHAIN
- EPC : E

MUST BE SEEN INSPECTION ABSOLUTELY ESSENTIAL

OFFERS BASED ON £99,950

Viewings Bearwood Office

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Wednesbury	Tipton	West Bromwich	Willenhall	Walsall	Bilston
0121 222 1301	0121 222 1304	0121 222 1307	01902 505971	01922 460781	01902 505974

Moat Road, Tipton

- Traditional Extended Semi Detached
- Upvc Double Glazing ● Gas Central Heating
- Extended To Rear
- 3 Bedrooms, EPC E

OFFERS AROUND: £111,950
Viewing:

Hursey Drive, Tipton

- Modern Semi Detached
- 50% Shared Ownership Scheme
- Upvc Double Glazing ● Gas Central Heating
- 2 Bedrooms, EPC D

OFFERS AROUND: £55,000
Viewing:

Hurst Lane, Tipton

- Modern Ground Floor Apartment
- Upvc Double Glazing ● No Upward Chain
- Security entrance doors
- 2 Bedrooms, EPC tbc

OFFERS AROUND: £67,500
Viewing:

Heron House, Tipton

- Modern Second Floor Apartment
- Upvc Double Glazing ● Electric Heating
- Ideal Buy To Let Investment
- 2 Bedrooms, EPC B

OFFERS AROUND: £69,950
Viewing:

Newells Drive, Tipton

- Modern Semi Detached
- Upvc Double Glazing ● Gas Central Heating
- Quiet Cul De Sac Location
- 3 Bedrooms, EPC D

OFFERS AROUND: £109,950
Viewing:

Dudley Road, Tipton

- Spacious Semi Detached Family Home
- upvc double glazing ● Gas central heating
- Excellent Size Accommodation
- 3 Bedrooms, EPC E

OFFERS AROUND: £110,000
Viewing:

Tudor Court, Tipton

- Purpose Built Ground Floor Flat
- Upvc Double Glazing
- No Upward Chain
- 1 Bedroom, EPC D

OFFERS AROUND: £49,950
Viewing:

Lea Avenue, Wednesbury

- Traditional Semi Detached
- Upvc Double Glazing ● Gas Central Heating
- No Upward Chain
- 2 Bedrooms, EPC E

OFFERS AROUND: £110,000
Viewing:

PUBLIC NOTICE

Goldborough Close

PUBLIC NOTICE - 2 Goldborough Close Coseley WV14 8RJ - We are in receipt of an offer of £106,000 subject to contract for this property. Anyone wishing to place a higher offer must do so before legal exchange of contracts.

Margaret Street, West Bromwich — NEW

- Mid Terrace
- Two Double Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- , Ground Floor Bathroom

OFFERS AROUND: £90,000
Viewing:

Rainham Close, Tipton

- Extended Semi Detached
- Much Sought After cul de sac Location
- upvc double glazing ● gas central heating
- 3 Bedrooms, EPC tbc

OFFERS AROUND: £131,950
Viewing:

Gospel Oak Road, Tipton

- Modern Semi Detached
- Upvc Double Glazing ● Gas Central Heating
- Well Presented Accommodation
- 2 Bedrooms, EPC C

OFFERS AROUND: £110,000
Viewing:

Dangerfield Lane, Wednesbury

- Well Presented 3 Bedroom Semi Detached Home
- Gas Central Heating & Double Glazing (as spec.)
- No Upward Chain!
- EPC Rating; D, Receptrion Hall

OFFERS AROUND: £105,000
Viewing:

Beebee Road, Wednesbury

- Fully Refrubished Semi Detached
- Occupying Corner Plot
- Gas Central Heating & Double Glazing (as specified)

OFFERS AROUND: £140,000
Viewing:

Julia Gardens, West Bromwich — NEW

- Semi Detached Bungalow
- Two Double Bedrooms
- Re-Fitted Shower Room
- , Front and Rear Gardens

OFFERS AROUND: £155,000
Viewing:

Stoney Lane, West Bromwich — NEW

- Mid Terrace Property
- Three Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- , Ground Floor Bathroom

OFFERS AROUND: £100,000
Viewing:

Heath Lane, West Bromwich — NEW

- Semi Detached
- Three Bedrooms
- Through Lounge/Diner
- , Conservatory

OFFERS AROUND: £160,000
Viewing:

Oaktree Road, Wednesbury

- Extended Traditional Semi Detached Home
- Three Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- EPC Rating: G, Modern Kitchen

OFFERS AROUND: £129,950
Viewing:

Sycamore Road, Wednesbury

- Extended Semi Detached Property
- Three Bedrooms & First Floor Bathroom
- Lounge & Dining Room
- , Kitchen & Ground Floor Wet Room

OFFERS AROUND: £130,000
Viewing:

Margaret Road, Wednesbury

- Semi Detached Property
- Two Bedrooms
- First Floor Shower Room
- EPC Rating - E, Lounge & Kitchen

OFFERS AROUND: £90,000
Viewing:

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Connells

Bearwood 122 Poplar Rd Bearwood B66 4AP

PUBLIC NOTICE

Date of notice:17/04/15 by order of the mortgagee in possession we advise that an offer of £42,500 has been received for 125 Winson Street, Birmingham, B18 4JW. any persons wishing to make an increased offer should notify the agents: Connells, Bearwood, B66 4AP, Tel: 0121 420 3611 of their best offer.

Montague Road
Smethwick £155,000

A semi-detached property having gas central heating and double glazing where specified and comprising: entrance hall, lounge/diner, kitchen, cloakroom, three first floor bedrooms, family bathroom. Outside: garage, parking, gardens to front, side and rear. EPC: D

Rotton Park Road
Edgbaston £210,000

A mid terraced Victorian property with gas central heating where specified and comprising: entrance lobby, entrance hall, lounge, dining room, third reception room, kitchen, four bedrooms, upstairs bathroom, garden areas to front and rear. EPC: E

Rawlings Road
Bearwood £137,000

A mid-terraced Victorian property, situated in the popular suburb of Bearwood. with gas central heating and double-glazing (where specified) and comprising: lounge, dining room, kitchen, two bedrooms, bathroom, gardens to front and rear. EPC: E

Rose Bungalow, Elm Croft
Oldbury £250,000

A detached bungalow in a quiet cul-de-sac location within easy access to local amenities. With double glazing and central heating where specified and comprising: entrance porch, entrance hall. lounge, kitchen, conservatory, two bedrooms, bathroom, garage, parking, gardens to front and rear. EPC: D

Statham Drive
Edgbaston £289,950

A detached family home with gas central heating and double glazing where specified and comprising: porch, hall, lounge, dining room, kitchen, utility, cloakroom/conservatory, four bedrooms, bathroom, garage, parking, gardens. EPC: E

Addenbrook Road
Smethwick £130,000

An end townhouse with gas central heating and double glazing where specified and comprising: entrance lobby, lounge, kitchen/diner, sun room, three bedrooms, family bathroom.off-road parking, gardens. NO UPWARD CHAIN. EPC: D

City Road
Birmingham £200,000

A five bedroom mid-terraced property, ideal investment opportunity, having gas central heating and double glazing where specified and comprising: two reception rooms, kitchen/dining room, downstairs bathroom, upstairs bathroom, separate WC and spacious gardens to rear. EPC: F

Selsey Road
Edgbaston £120,000

A very well maintained mid terraced Victorian property in a popular and convenient residential location with gas central heating and double glazing where specified and comprising: lounge, dining room, kitchen, bathroom, three bedrooms, garden areas to front and rear. EPC: C

Holly Mount, Hagley Road
Birmingham £120,000

A very well presented, fourth floor apartment situated within close proximity to City Centre. With central heating and double glazing where specified and comprising: entrance hall, lounge, kitchen, two bedrooms, bathroom. communal parking, grounds and garage. EPC: C

Arden Road
Smethwick £114,000

A traditional mid terraced with two reception rooms, kitchen, downstairs bathroom, first floor WC and rear garden. Double glazing and central heating where specified. Close to shops and rail links. EPC: E

Oldbury 70/76 Birmingham Street Birmingham B69 4EB

Knottsall Lane
Oldbury £209,950

EPC RATING D - ●●OPEN HOUSE EVENT - SAT 16/5/2015●● SPECIAL REDUCTION FROM LIST PRICE for OPEN EVENT ONLY. ●●Free Legals available on this property, subject to T&Cs●● DON'T MISS OUT - A MUST SEE!! Contact Oldbury Office for OPEN DAY EVENT times.

Park Avenue
Oldbury £169,950

EPC RATING D

S.S.T.C within 3 days!!! Full asking price achieved. Call the Oldbury office NOW for your free market appraisal.

East Avenue
Tividale £119,950

EPC RATING D - A well presented mid terraced property SITUATED IN A CUL-DE-SAC LOCATION in the popular area of Tividale. ●●VIEWING IS HIGHLY RECOMMENDED TO APPRECIATE THE STANDARD OF ACCOMMODATION ON OFFER●●

Dudley Road West
Tividale £114,950

EPC RATING D - A DECEPTIVELY SPACIOUS terraced property with two reception rooms, three bedrooms and a good sized rear garden. Double glazing and central heating where specified. ●●VIEWING IS HIGHLY RECOMMENDED TO APPRECIATE THE SIZE OF ACCOMMODATION ON OFFER●●

Sycamore Road
Oldbury £114,950

EPC RATING E - ●IDEAL FIRST TIME BUYER PROPERTY● A traditional semi detached in CUL-DE-SAC location comprising of three bedrooms, two reception rooms and off road parking. Double glazing and central heating where specified. VIEWING IS HIGHLY RECOMMENDED

Bryan Budd Close
Rowley Regis £112,000

EPC RATING C - Connells are pleased to present this MODERN and WELL PRESENTED maisonette with its own entrance, allocated parking and private rear garden. Double glazing and central heating where specified. ●●VIEWING IS HIGHLY RECOMMENDED TO APPRECIATE THE STANDARD OF ACCOMMODATION ON OFFER●●

Roway Lane
Oldbury £112,000

EPC RATING D - A DECEPTIVELY SPACIOUS semi detached property with through lounge/diner, breakfast kitchen, three bedrooms. Double glazing and central heating where specified. IDEALLY LOCATED for transport links and local amenities.

Brandhall Court
Wolverhampton £94,950

EPC RATING E - Connells are pleased to present this GROUND FLOOR two bedroom apartment set in GATED GROUNDS with parking and a garage. ●●VIEWING IS HIGHLY RECOMMENDED TO APPRECIATE THE SIZE OF ACCOMMODATION ON OFFER●●

Rood End Road
Oldbury £89,950

EPC RATING E - A TRADITIONAL terraced property with lounge, kitchen/diner, two bedrooms and first floor bathroom. Double glazing and central heating where specified. ●●VIEWING HIGHLY RECOMMENDED●●

Carnegie Avenue
Tipton £84,950

EPC RATING E - ●●IDEAL FIRST TIME BUYER PROPERTY●● A two bedroom semi detached property with off road parking. Double glazing where specified.

Pendeford
£34,950

PUBLIC NOTICE

27 Weyhill Close, Wolverhampton, WV9 5RA. We are acting in the sale of the above property and have received an offer of £32,000 on the above property. Any interested parties must submit any higher offers in writing to the selling agent before exchange of contracts takes place. EPC RATING D

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Dove Close
Wednesbury £185,000

VIEWING ESSENTIAL to appreciate this spacious four bedroom link-detached property briefly comprising of, uPVC double glazing and gas central heating (as specified) lounge, dining room, fitted kitchen, first floor family bathroom, enclosed rear garden, tandem garage and drive-way. EPC Rating D.

Myrtle Terrace
Tipton £170,000

EARLY INSPECTION ADVISED to appreciate this well presented three/four bedroom link detached property briefly comprising of, uPVC double glazing and gas central heating (as specified) lounge, dining room, fitted kitchen, converted garage to bedroom 4 with en-suite and drive-way providing off road parking. EPC Rating D.

Cupfields Avenue
Tipton £135,000

VIEWING ESSENTIAL to appreciate this spacious three bedroom semi-detached property briefly comprising of two reception rooms, fitted kitchen, ground floor and first floor shower room, utility room, enclosed rear garden and off road parking. EPC rating E.

Tipton Road
Tipton £120,000

VIEWING ESSENTIAL to appreciate this unique end terrace cottage situated on the canal towpath briefly comprising of, open plan lounge with fitted kitchen/diner, two double bedrooms, double glazing (as specified) electric heating, allocated parking, enclosed rear garden. EPC Rating F.

Wooding Crescent
Tipton £164,950

VIEWING HIGHLY RECOMMENDED to appreciate this three bedroom detached property benefiting from NO UPWARD CHAIN briefly comprising of guest cloakroom, lounge, fitted kitchen/diner, first floor family bathroom, enclosed rear garden, off road parking and garage. EPC Rating D.

Gospel Oak Road
Tipton £140,000

VIEWING HIGHLY ADVISED to appreciate this traditional style three bedroom semi-detached property comprising lounge, dining room, fitted kitchen, conservatory, garage and off road parking. EPC Rating D.

Hawthorn Road
Wednesbury £125,000

VIEWING ESSENTIAL to appreciate this three bedroom semi-detached property BENEFITING FROM NO UPWARD CHAIN briefly comprising of, uPVC double glazing and gas central heating (as specified) lounge, kitchen, fitted bathroom, enclosed rear garden and off road parking. EPC Rating C.

Gads Lane
West Bromwich £225,000

An extremely well presented traditional 3 bedroom detached property located within minutes of West Bromwich Town Centre. This property boasts much of its character through it's original stained glass feature windows and it's generous amount of land. This bespoke property also offers 3 reception rooms, modern fitted kitchen, family bathroom, garage

Brunel Drive
Tipton £99,950

●●● NO UPWARD CHAIN ●●● A modern 2 bedroom mid terrace property in a Cul de Sac location, offering spacious lounge, modern fitted kitchen, guest WC, family bathroom, double glazing, central heating (where specified), off road parking. EPC RATING C

Farhill Close
West Bromwich £106,000

A 3 bedroom mid terrace property, briefly comprising of double glazing, central heating, lounge, kitchen, upstairs bathroom, garage, rear garden. EPC RATING D

Lyndhurst Road
West Bromwich £122,500

A well maintained traditional 3 bedroom semi detached property in need of improvement, offering 2 reception rooms, fitted kitchen, family shower room, double glazing, electric storage heating, off road parking and NO UPWARD CHAIN. EPC RATING F

Lilac Grove
Wednesbury £115,000

BENEFITING FROM NO UPWARD CHAIN. situated in a cul-de-sac location on the Golf Links estate this two bedroom semi-detached property briefly comprising of, uPVC double glazing and gas central heating (as specified) entrance hall, lounge, conservatory, fitted kitchen, first floor bathroom, front and rear gardens. EPC Rating D.

Richard Williams Road
Wednesbury £78,950

BENEFITING FROM NO UPWARD CHAIN this three bedroom semi-detached property briefly comprising of, uPVC double glazing and gas central heating (as specified) lounge, fitted kitchen, ground floor bathroom, enclosed rear garden, off road parking and garage. EPC Rating E.

Spirit Mews, Cobden Street
Wednesbury £149,950

A four bedroom three storey end terrace property briefly comprising of guest cloakroom, lounge, kitchen/diner, first floor bathroom, en-suite to master bedroom, allocated parking, garage, enclosed rear garden. NO UPWARD CHAIN. EPC Rating B.

Chestnut Road
Wednesbury £114,950

●●OPEN HOUSE SATURDAY 23rd MAY 10am - 11am●● Call us now on 0121 556 2338 to reserve your viewing appointment. Offering great potential, a three bedroom semi detached property in a sought after area in need of refurbishment. EPC Rating F.

Gladstone Street
West Bromwich £79,950

A beautifully presented modern 2 bedroom first floor apartment, offering spacious lounge, fitted kitchen, bathroom, double glazing, electric heating, allocated parking and communal gardens. EPC RATING B

The Broadway
West Bromwich £130,000

A well presented traditional 3 bedroom semi detached property situated in a Cul de Sac location, offering 2 reception rooms,extended kitchen, family bathroom, double glazing, central heating,(where specified) and rear garden. EPC RATING D

Sheldon Road
West Bromwich £142,000

A spacious 3 bedroom semi detached property situated on a large corner plot and offering 2 reception rooms, fitted kitchen, family bathroom, double glazing central heating (where specified), off road parking and NO UPWARD CHAIN. EPC RATING C

Pleasant Street
West Bromwich £145,000

A well presented and well maintained spacious 3 bedroom semi detached property, offering integral garage, through lounge, family bathroom, fitted kitchen, double glazing and central heating (where specified), off road parking. EPC RATING D

West Bromwich 3 Astle Park West Bromwich B70 8NS

Malvern Close
West Bromwich £219,950

A very well presented 4 bedroom detached property offering lots of character and is situated close to West Bromwich town centre and Sandwell Hospital, comprising of 3 reception rooms, study, guest cloakroom, utility room, fitted kitchen, en-suite to master bedroom. EPC RATING C

Wolseley Road
West Bromwich £185,000

A superbly presented extended 4 bedroom semi detached property modernised to open plan living, offering open plan lounge,kitchen and diner, downstairs shower room, family bathroom, double glazing, central heating (where specified) off road parking, situated on a corner plot. EPC RATING G

Edwin Phillips Drive
West Bromwich £145,000

A modern 3 bedroom semi detached property situated in a Cul de Sac location in the Hill Top Area of West Bromwich, offering lounge, kitchen/diner, guest cloakroom, family bathroom, double glazing, central heating (where specified), off road parking and detached garage. EPC RATING C

0121 420 3611 bearwood@connells.co.uk | 0121 552 2671 oldbury@connells.co.uk
0121 556 2338 wednesbury@connells.co.uk | 0121 525 1177 westbromwich@connells.co.uk

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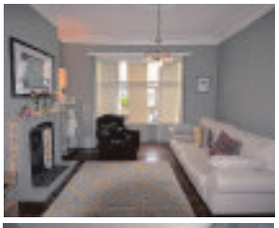
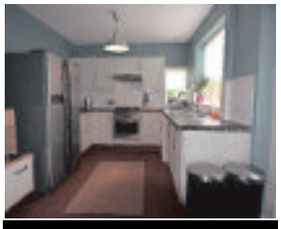
NEW

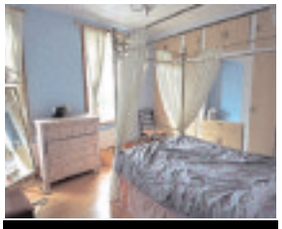



Milcote Road, Bearwood

- Elegantly Presented Terrace
- Interconnecting Receptions
- Two Double Bedrooms
- Additional Nursery/Study
- Viewing Is Essential!
- EP Rating E

Offers in the region of £189,950

NEW

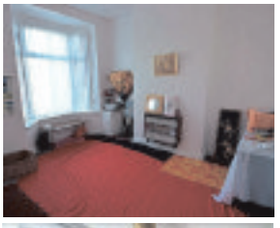
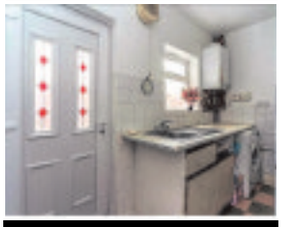


Park Road, Bearwood

- Well Presented Terrace
- Two Double Bedrooms
- Split Level Through Lounge
- Spacious Bathroom
- Mature Rear Garden
- EP Rating TBC

Offers in the region of £164,950

NEW

Holly Lane, Smethwick

- Traditional Mid Terrace
- Two Double Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- Excellent Transport Links
- Ideal 1st Purchase/Buy to Let
- EP Rating D

Offers in the region of £97,500

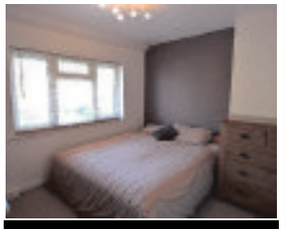
NEW

Topsham Road, Smethwick

- Well Presented Terrace
- Two Double Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- Pleasant Rear Garden
- No Upward Chain
- EP Rating TBC

Offers in the region of £124,950

NEW



Astbury Avenue, Smethwick

- Charming End Terrace
- Three Bedrooms
- Spacious Dining Kitchen
- Off Road Parking
- No Upward Chain
- EP Rating D

Offers In The Region Of £114,950

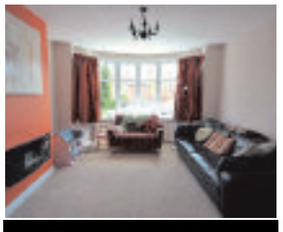
NEW

City Road, Edgbaston

- Traditional Semi-Detached
- Requiring Improving
- Four Bedrooms
- Workshop With Electric Points
- Off Road Parking
- EP Rating E

Offers In The Region of £215,000

NEW



Ridgacre Lane, Quinton

- Tastefully Presented Semi
- Four Bedrooms
- Extended Dining Kitchen
- Ground Floor WC
- Ample Parking
- EP Rating D

Offers in the region of £259,950

NEW

Southfield Avenue, Edgbaston

- Traditional Mid Terrace
- Two Double Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- Mature Rear Garden
- Excellent Location for City Centre
- Ideal 1st Purchase/Buy to Let

Offers in the region of £100,000

Devon Road, Bearwood

- Double Fronted Victorian House
- Four Bedrooms
- Three Reception Rooms
- EP Rating E

Offers in the region of £385,000

Gladys Road, Bearwood

- Attractive Traditional Terrace
- Two Double Bedrooms
- GF Shower & FF Bathroom
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- Unique Penthouse Apartment
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- EP Rating E

Offers in the region of £169,950

Bristnall Hall Lane, Oldbury

- Charming End Terrace
- Dining Kitchen
- Off Road Parking
- EP Rating C

Offers in the region of £114,950

Trinder Road, Smethwick

- Beautifully Presented Semi
- Three Bedrooms
- Dining Kitchen
- EP Rating E

Offers in the region of £144,950

The Uplands, Smethwick

- Most Attractive Mid Terrace
- Two double Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- EP Rating D

Offers in the region of £114,950

Castle Road West, Oldbury

- Well Presented Semi-Detached
- Three Bedrooms
- Extended Kitchen
- EP Rating D

Offers in the region of £169,950

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- Three Reception Rooms
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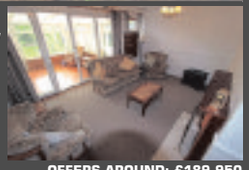

OFFERS AROUND: £189,950

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TIPTON NEW CROSS STREET
- Modern Three Storey Mid Terrace Town House
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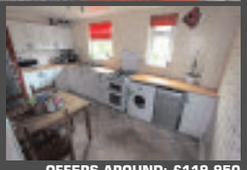
- Downstairs WC
- Upstairs Family Bathroom
- Rear Garden
- Double Glazed & Gas Fired Central Heating
- Freehold



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- New Fitted Kitchen
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- Off Street Parking
- Rear Garden
- No Upward Chain
- Double Glazed & Gas Central Heating

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- Garage
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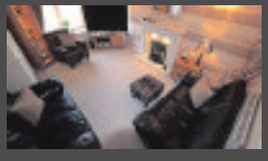

TIPTON FARMER WAY
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- Lounge
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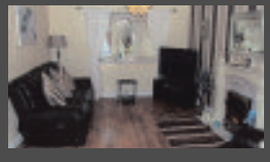
- Family Bathroom
- Front & Rear Gardens
- Off Road Parking & Garage
- Double Glazing & Gas Fired Central Heaing
- Freehold

OFFERS AROUND: £157,500

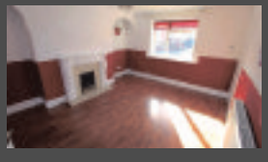
TIPTON WILLIAM BARROWS WAY
- Modern four bedroom end terraced
- Lounge
- Kitchen diner
- Downstairs WC
- Upstairs family bathroom
- En suite to master
- Two allocated parking spaces
- Rear garden

OFFERS AROUND: 149,995



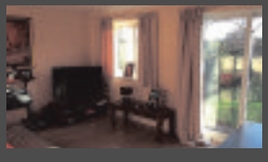
TIPTON WHITEHOUSE STREET
- Well maintained and improved town house
- Three good sized bedrooms
- Though lounge / dining room
- Condensing central heating
- Double glazing
- Nicely presented kitchen and bathroom
- Block paved off road parking
- Downstairs WC

OFFERS AROUND: £119,950



TIPTON CENTRAL AVENUE
- 4 bedroom family home
- Semi detached near all amenities
- Double glazed and central heating
- Vacant possession
- Off road parking
- Enclosed garden
- Ideal family home

OFFERS AROUND: £109,950



TIPTON BELMONT CLOSE
- Larger Than Average Two Bedroom Semi
- Two Double Bedrooms
- Bathroom With Shower
- Dining Kitchen
- Storage Heating
- Double Glazing
- Cul-De-Sac Location
- Close To Amenities

OFFERS AROUND: £104,995

TIPTON JOHNS LANE
- Modern Two Bed Semi Detached House
- Lounge
- Kitchen
- Downstairs WC
- Upstairs Family Bathroom
- Front & Rear Gardens
- Off Road Parking for several vehicles
- UPVC Double Glazing

OFFERS AROUND: £102,500

TIPTON TURTON ROAD
- Recently Refurbished Three End Of Terrace House
- Lounge
- Stylish Kitchen
- Downstairs Family Bathroom
- UPVC Double Glazing & Gas Fired Central Heating
- Front & Rear Gardens
- Could make Off Road Parking To the Rear
- No Upward Chain

OFFERS AROUND: £94,950

TIPTON COLBOURNE ROAD
- Mid terrace house
- Three bedrooms
- Lounge
- Dining room
- Kitchen
- Downstairs family bathroom
- Rear garden
- Double glazing and gas fired central heating

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pets corner

NOTICE TO READERS
Please be aware that when purchasing a puppy there are some simple guidelines you can follow to ensure that you are not purchasing from a Puppy Farmer:

1. Try to ensure you visit the puppy whilst it is still with it's Mother.
2. Do not arrange to collect a puppy from any other location than that of the breeder.
3. Ensure that you are given any KC documentation, if pedigree.

Whilst Midland News Association publications take great care to avoid publication of advertisements from Puppy Farmers we cannot accept any liability should readers purchase from this kind of establishment.

vets

Express & Star

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5 Business & Farming

business opportunities

READERS are recommended to take appropriate professional advice before entering any obligations.

UNITS AND OFFICE SPACE to let in Oldbury, West Bromwich and Walsall. Easy Terms. Ashmore Properties: 0121 520 5318.

7 Jobs

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CRH Transport Training Train and Test at our centre in West Brom 0121 3231777 crhtraining.co.uk

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drivers

RECOVERY DRIVER 7.5 tonne. Part/Full time. Some mechanical knowledge required. 0121 558 1500 or 07854 896621.

motor trade

HGV FITTER / MECHANIC required full time. HGV licence preferred. Must have experience of working within a busy commercial garage. Oldbury based. Call Darren or Tracey on 0121 552 0777 or 07860 887620. Email: dpkirkham@hotmail.com

nursing & carers

FEMALE CARER required for older lady in her own home in Wednesbury. Above minimum wage. Telephone 07944 793909.

office & secretarial

PAYROLL / HR ADMINISTRATOR. Duties include, processing weekly payroll for 40 employees, monthly 10 employees. Updating employee records. Maintaining training matrix. Liaising with company solicitors regarding disciplinary / grievance hearings. Must be confident, enthusiastic, with excellent common sense and able to work on own initiative. 36.5 hrs pw. Salary £23K-£25K dependant on experience. Apply at www.giffords.biz and complete the online application form.

part time - general

DISPENSING / PHARMACY ASSISTANT required 4pm -7pm Mon-Fri. CV's to Ashworth Pharmacy, 211a Queens Road, Smethwick B67 6NX or email: apl211@yahoo.co.uk

full time - general

Driver/Fitter

7.5T Vehicle - Midlands

Experienced Driver / Fitter required for Excavator Attachment Company:

If you're helpful, friendly and a 'hands on' person who can work to high standards and wish to join a growing business, please apply.

Salary is negotiable and in line with experience. Hours 45pw +

Clean licence & relevant CPC card required.

Send your CV FAO Simon Lewin (Regional Manager) **by email:** midlands@sandhurst.co.uk or **by Post** to: Sandhurst Equipment Rental 95 Giles Road, Oldbury, W. Midlands B68 8JQ

Sandhurst RENT
www.sandhurst-rent.com

PARTS ADVISOR

Carlyle Bus & Coach Ltd - West Bromwich, B70 0XA

Salary: Negotiable depending on experience

Job Type: Full time / Permanent

Person requirements:

Excellent customer service skills, smart appearance, Flexibility to cover warehouse staff during holidays / sickness

Duties include:

Order processing, dealing with customer enquiries, general office administration, maintain existing relationships with customers, occasional driving may be required.

To apply please send your CV, covering letter and salary expectations to marketing@carlyleplc.co.uk

NEWS DELIVERERS needed in the Rowley B65 - 8 and DY2 - 8 areas Please contact **Customer Services on 0800 174 064.**

NEWS DELIVERERS needed in the Mesty Croft area of Wednesbury. **Customer Services on 0800 174064.**

NEWS DELIVERERS needed in the B71-1 & B70-8 areas of West Bromwich. Please contact **Customer Services on 0800 174 064.**

8 Motoring

cars over £1500

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We have a package to suit every budget.
Packages start from as little as
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HONDA JAZZ 1.4ES i V-TEC

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£4,995.

Telephone 01543 453031 or 07548 267104.

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December 2009. 100bhp, 17,500 miles, new condition, MoT December 2015, fsh, alloys, electric heated mirrors, electric windows x 4, a/c, pas, VSA, radio/CD/MP3 plus extras.

£4,995.

Telephone 01543 453031 or 07548 267104.

LANDROVER FREELANDER Serengeti, 03 reg. 5-dr, blue, 155,000 miles, long MoT. £1,850. 01922 403024.

MAZDA MX5 1.8 Sport, 2001, 76,000 miles, MoT 2016, silver, 10 services, always garaged. £2,400. 07771 428793.

MERCEDES SLK230, 04 Reg., 48k, black, black leather interior, 12 months MoT, alloys unmarked, fsh, £6,350 o.n.o. 0121 357 8407.

PEUGEOT 206 1.1, 2002, 25,000 miles, china blue, air bag, air con, MoT, CD player. One lady owner. £1,650. 01543 263852.

VW POLO 1.2, 2005, 65,000 miles, blue, air bag, MoT, central locking, pas, CD, £2,295. 0121 530 4621.

cars under £1500

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A WIDE RANGE OF CARS UNDER £1,000
Open every day, Full MOT's
01902 490555
Dale Street, Bilston, WV14 7JY

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that the Business Advertisements (Disclosure) Order of 1977 requires that advertisements must clearly differentiate between Private and Trade.

FORD ESCORT ESTATE 1998, 1.4, 12mths MoT, 56k genuine. Immaculate for year, one owner from new. £600. ovno. 0121 291 6635.

MAZDA Berkeley, MX5, R regn, full MoT, metallic green, any trial. £1,195. 01543 506992.

MERCEDES A140 CLASSIC 1400c, 2000 reg, MoT Jan 2016, cd, elecs. Immaculate, nice car. £450. 07570 466 779.

PEUGEOT 206 GTi

2003, 90,000 miles, silver MoT April 2016 after market alarm, TSW Alloys runs and drives really well, must be seen.

£750. o.n.o.

Telephone 07748 184469.

TOYOTA YARIS SR 1.3, 2002, 52 reg, 1 year MoT, cd, all SR extra's. Nice condition, £875. 07486 172 568.

VAUXHALL AGILA CLUB, 2002, 45,000 miles, black, long MoT, 1.2cc, one lady owner for past 12 years, £600 ono. 07956 344061.

VAUXHALL CORSA 1.2 twin port, 54, 5dr, silver, full MoT, 97k, FSH, Immaculate inside/out, 2 owners. £1,095 ono. 07740 268630.

VAUXHALL CORSA, 2002, 70,000 miles, silver, fsh, MoT, central locking, stereo, 1.0 litre Club, £850 ono. 01902 342234.

VW BEETLE, 2001, silver, full MoT, good condition, £1,295. o.n.o. 07852 989076.

commercial vehicles

MERCEDES SPRINTER PICK-UP, lwb, 313CDi, 60 reg, 14ft drop side, white, £6,950. 07836 568903.

driving tuition

Homer's
Mini, Clio, Corsa, Fiesta, Punto, 207, KA, Fiat 500, Yaris.
10 Hours £89! Five Hours £50!
2 Hours £20! All Areas Covered
MALE & FEMALE INSTRUCTORS
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scrap vehicles

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TOP PRICES PAID
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Scrap it legally, NO fines, NO comebacks.
All scrap cars/vans wanted
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TOP PRICE PAID 4 SCRAP CARS!
VANS! CAMPERS! MOT FAILURES!
ANYTHING CONSIDERED, FREE COLLECTION WITHIN THE HOUR! 7 DAYS
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Scrap & MOT Failures Best Prices Paid ELV Registered Spares Always Available
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spares/parts

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Lines open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week
we can buy your house in 2 days

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WE BUY ANY HOUSE
national homeowners helpline.co.uk
in a mess? talk in confidence we can help
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ANY AREA
ANY CONDITION *PI Group
*subject to terms
24/7 0800 085 6626
24/7 0121 274 0398

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- Any condition
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sell your house now
A guaranteed offer, no fees, fast completion, any condition, any circumstances
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Sell your house
We are just a phone call away
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Cash paid for your property
Guaranteed offer*
Free solicitors - no fees*
NOW
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the name you can trust
Harrison Fowler
Any property, Any condition
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No fees
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Structural problems, mine shafts, non standard construction, concrete properties, steel properties, rising ground rent, rising lease costs, Japanese Knotweed, subsidence, nothing worries us...we will buy your house whatever the problem
no problem!
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Anytime
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Call today for a best price
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6 Property

properties wanted

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WILL PAY 15K MORE
Complete within 7 days
Ring Paul, 07870 341089

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NOTICE TO READERS It is an offence under the Accommodation Agencies Act 1953, for an Agency to charge a fee simply for the registration of your requirements and/or supplying particulars of premises to let.

FLEXIBLE, Affordable, Unbeatable - Rooms and self contained studios to let, most bills included, Wolverhampton, Sandwell and Walsall. 07479 082068

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Three bed terrace
Central Heating, Unfurnished, near town centre. £475pcm.
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40ft by 16ft mobile home £39,000
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Both fully furnished & in Immaculate condition
With own gardens shed & private parking on Beautiful well facilitated park in South Shropshire.
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NOTICE TO READERS
Readers are advised to seek independent legal advice before entering into any financial commitments.

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9 Local Information

public & legal notices

IVY GLADYS WILLIAMS (Deceased)
Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 any persons having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the aforementioned deceased, late of 15 Canterbury Road West Bromwich West Midlands B71 2LB, who died on 30/10/2014, are required to send particulars thereof in writing to the undersigned on or before 17/07/2015, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to claims and interests of which they have had notice.
THE CO-OPERATIVE LEGAL SERVICES LIMITED
Aztec 650 Aztec West
Almondsbury Bristol BS32 4SD
(Ref: DAW/3544440P/Williams) *T440516*

HAVE YOU CHECKED your advertisement today? We would respectfully remind advertisers that it is their responsibility to inform the publishers of any mistakes or inaccuracies on the first day of publication.

SANDWELL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

The Borough Council of Sandwell (Roberts Road and Addison Road, Wednesbury) (Temporary Road Closures) Order 2015, intends to temporarily prohibit any vehicles from proceeding along the following roads in Wednesbury: 1) Roberts Road at the point of its junction with Walsall Road (anticipated dates 25/05/15- 08/06/15), and 2) Addison Road between Asbury Road and Addison Close (anticipated dates 08/06/15- 22/06/15). The maximum duration is 18 months, but the work is expected to be completed by 22/06/15, effective from 25/05/15. Traffic will be diverted as follows: for Roberts Road traffic via Walsall Road, Sandy Lane and Friar Park Road and vice-versa. For Addison Road traffic via Asbury Road, Addison Road and vice-versa. Purpose – gas main replacement by National Grid Gas.

The Borough Council of Sandwell (High Street, West Bromwich) (Temporary Road Closure) Order 2015, intends to temporarily prohibit any vehicles from proceeding along High Street, West Bromwich between Dartmouth Street and Lodge Road. The maximum duration is 18 months, but the work is expected to be completed by 07/06/15, effective from 31/05/15 – Sundays only. Traffic will be diverted via Dartmouth Street, Oak Lane, Oxford Road, Lodge Road and vice-versa. Purpose – dismantle and remove crane – BAM Construction Ltd.

The Borough Council of Sandwell (Chester Road, Cradley Heath) (Temporary Road Closure) Order 2015, intends to temporarily prohibit any vehicles from proceeding along Chester Road, Cradley Heath. The maximum duration is 18 months, but the work is expected to be completed by 25/06/15, effective from 22/06/15 (22.00hrs – 06.00hrs only). Traffic will be diverted via Lower High Street, Cradley Road and vice-versa. Purpose – vegetation clearance adjacent to the railway line by AMCO.

The Borough Council of Sandwell (Brades Rise, Oldbury) (Temporary Road Closure) Order 2015, intends to temporarily prohibit any vehicles from proceeding along Brades Rise, Oldbury. The maximum duration is 18 months, but the work is expected to be completed by 12/06/15, effective from 08/06/15. Traffic will be diverted via Brades Road, St James Road, Axletree Road and vice-versa. Purpose – new gas service – Balfour Beatty for National Grid Gas.

SANDWELL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL
Regeneration and Economy
Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended)
Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990
Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2015

I hereby give notice that Sandwell Council has received the following applications under the planning acts which it is required to give public notice for the reason given at the beginning of each group of applications.

This is a major application.

DC/15/58111	Mr Pavitar Singh 4 Star Skip	Land Adjacent Langley Maltings Western Road Oldbury B69 4LY	Change of use to skip yard including sorting of trade building waste materials and associated office.

This is a major application.

DC/15/58165	Mr Gurmit Singh Safeway Construction Midlands Ltd	Site Of 2-28 Witton Lane West Bromwich	Proposed development of 12 apartments (reserved matters application for appearance, landscaping and scale – pursuant to outline application DC/13/55779).

Members of the public may inspect copies of these applications at Council House, Freeth Street, Oldbury, West Midlands, B69 3DE
(between 8.00a.m. and 5.30p.m. Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, 9.00a.m. and 5.30p.m. Wednesday and 8.00a.m. to 5p.m. Friday) or via the Council's Public Access website (www.sandwell.gov.uk).

Anyone who wishes to make representations about these applications can do so via the website, or should write to the Council at the above address within 21 days (and 21 days for Listed Building or Conservation Area consent) of the date of this advertisement quoting the application reference number.

Mr Nick Bubalo, Area Director – Regeneration and Economy

SANDWELL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

The Borough Council of Sandwell (Castle Road, Tipton) (Temporary Road Closure) Order 2015, has made an Order to temporarily prohibit any vehicles from proceeding along Castle Road, Tipton from its junction with Black Country New Road to its junction with Menin Road. The maximum duration is 18 months, but the work is expected to be completed by 18/05/15 effective from 18/05/15. Traffic will be diverted via Castle Road, Dudley Road, Birmingham New Road and vice-versa. Purpose – repairs to a damaged sewer pipe by Severn Trent Water.

LEGAL / PUBLIC NOTICES

For convenience you may fax any advertising requirements to **Marie Hogg on 01902 713146 or email marie.hogg@expressandstar.co.uk** (remember to include a name/contact number for confirmation of receipt)

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10 Personals

personal

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Friendship, hopefully leading to romance.

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Cannock and surrounding area.

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SINCERE, GENUINE MA 50's

GSOH, own house and b ness, modern outlook a dress sense.

Looking for that some special to share the good thi in life, care for each other laugh together, for friends and possible relationship Make it happen, get in tou

Box Number P19815 , Express and Star, Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1E

sports clubs

WYRLEY JUNIORS FC

A Friendly and ambitious Community Club is looking Players and Teams fror years old to Open Age for r Season.

For Girls and Women con Keith on 07836 202764

For boys and Men cont Sarah on 07733 302759

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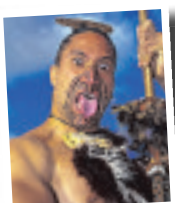
A selection of fascinating European and worldwide escorted tours by air and Eurostar



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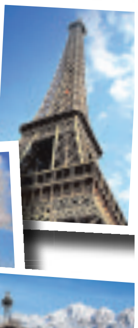

For a brochure call (01902) 319999 (Monday to Friday, 9am-5pm) or go to:

expressandstar.com/starextratravel

Please read brochures/web pages for full information plus

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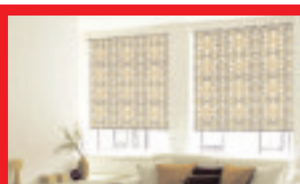

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Slicker new Vitara will challenge

By James Parker

It's good to see the Vitara badge being rehabilitated after the indignities it suffered at the hands of fashion in the early nineties. You'll probably shudder as you recall those wide-wheelarched horrors, usually so mercilessly colour-keyed in white that it looked as if they'd emerged from a peroxide bath.

The windsurfing or rollerblading rhino on the spare wheel cover and the booming stereo from within were all rather 'of their time'. The easy thing to have done after suffering these ministrations would have been to quietly drop the Vitara name and think up a new badge for their next generation of compact crossovers but Suzuki stuck with it, probably to their cost, in this country at least. As the market grew more sophisticated, Suzuki was left behind.

The thing is, the Grand Vitaras it subsequently built were actually pretty good. Sure, they were short of a bit of polish, but they were tough, reliable and practical. Then came the Nissan Qashqai. It hogged that particular section of the market and the Grand Vitara was doomed. Suzuki's back in the crossover segment with a smaller and slicker offering. The Vitara is back.

The mechanicals aren't anything too surprising, shared as they are with the existing SX-4 S-Cross. That means buyers get to choose between either a 1.6-litre petrol engine or a much preferable Fiat-sourced 118bhp 1.6 diesel, both being offered in front or four-wheel drive guises. The petrol engine is fitted with a five-speed manual gearbox as standard with an optional CVT transmission also offered. Go diesel and you get a six-speed manual 'box. The short overhangs will help with off-roading but the 185mm ground clearance isn't generous.

The ALLGRIP four-wheel-drive transmission features an electronically controlled clutch pack, controlled by a four-position switch on the centre console. Choose 'Auto' and it'll drive the front wheels unless slip is detected, whereupon the rear wheels are pressed into action. 'Sport' diverts up to 20 per cent of torque to the rear wheels to give livelier handling. 'Snow' offers permanent four-wheel drive with the system choosing how much torque to split front and rear, while 'Lock' splits torque equally between front and rear.

Assured

With tight proportions and a front end that has more than a hint of current Land Rover design, the Vitara is an assured piece of design. There's also a blacked-out floating glasshouse, heavily sculpted flanks and a very neat taillamp finish.

Suzuki cabins have long been the marque's weak link but this Vitara shows the company pulling its socks up a bit. Okay, so the idea of body-coloured metal across the dash isn't a new one (many of you will recall the Fiat Coupe mining that trend way back in '93) but Suzuki also offers chrome around the gearlever and door trims, plus an analogue clock. It's by no means a large vehicle, breaking the tape at just over four metres long, but still features a features a 375-litre boot.

Prices start at around £14,000 for the entry-level 1.6-litre petrol, but you'll need a £20,000 budget for the petrol ALLGRIP 4WD version. 1.6 DDiS diesel model pricing starts at around £17,000. All variants get seven airbags, 16-inch alloy wheels, a DAB Radio with USB and Bluetooth connectivity, cruise control with a speed limiter, auto air conditioning, front and rear electric windows and projector headlamps.

The Vitara's CO2 emissions are low thanks to the use of high tensile steel and other weight saving measures in the body plus an Engine Auto Stop Start system which shuts down the engine when stationary.

The CO2 emissions for the petrol engine with two wheel drive/manual transmission are 123g/km and 127g/km for the petrol engine with two-wheel drive / six-speed automatic transmission.

Four-wheel drive is typically seen as detrimental to fuel economy and emissions performance. By contrast, Suzuki's ALLGRIP system enables CO2 emissions that are remarkably low for a four-wheel drive SUV, with figures of 130g/km with five-speed manual transmission and 131g/km with six-speed automatic transmission.

VW sets new benchmark with the GTE

By John Griffiths

Volkswagen's Golf GTi is a legend: the benchmark by which for years other hot hatchbacks have been measured.

But what if you could have the GTi's combination of performance and practicality while carving a big chunk out of your running costs?

That's just what some drivers will get this month as they take delivery of the first GTEs, It's a hybrid, using a combination of petrol and electric motors to produce very similar levels of power and performance but with very substantial savings on fuel and therefore CO2 emissions.

Those who will benefit most, of course, are company car drivers who will find their 'benefit in kind' tax reduced to the lowest rate of five per cent. That will be increasingly important as HMRC plans will be hitting all company car users hard soon.

Under the bonnet is the well-proven 1.4 litre TFSI turbocharged petrol engine working in combination with a 102PS electric motor. They can provide drive individually or together in which case you have a total of 204PS and hefty 350Nm of torque. That compares with 210PS for the GTi and 184PS for its diesel equivalent: no surprise, then, that the GTE does the benchmark 0 to 62mph dash in 7.6 seconds, compared to 7.3 and 7.5 respectively for its more conventional stablemates.

Its list price is also competitive at £33,035, or £28,035 after the £5,000 government grant for plug-in hybrid cars,

Where there is a difference is fuel consumption – the official figures are an average 36.7mpg for the GTi, 62.8mpg for the GTD and a whopping 166mpg for the GTE based on the same computer-controlled test regime. That translates into a carbon dioxide emission rating of just 39g/km which is crucially important as it's the figure on which the government bases its VED and benefit in kind tax charges.

So, as well as no road tax to pay, company car drivers swapping from a similar petrol-powered machine with, for example, 180g/km of CO2, will find their tax liability falling from 31 per cent to just five per cent.

Now it's generally accepted that the phenomenal MPG figures quoted for hybrids are largely academic as the official test doesn't replicate real world conditions. But on the first part of my own unscientific test it was set to 'hybrid auto' mode whereby the electric motor helps out the petrol engine, automatically and seamlessly. The result was that the trip meter was showing an average mpg in the high 60s and still climbing while progress was almost silent.

On the second half I made what was, with hindsight, a mistake and switched to 'recharge battery' mode which cuts off electric assistance and means the petrol engine has to work harder. As a result, average economy dropped to a still acceptable mid 50s.

Functions

One of the four operating modes can be very easily controlled with just two finger strokes on the centre touch screen, which as usual also controls such functions as Sat-Nav, audio and driver information.

The GTE starts in 'E-Mode', which given the torque characteristics of an electric motor ensures a quick getaway in any case. But there's a second 'GTE' button in the centre console which sets the car alight, unleashing the full 204PS potential for a very rapid overtaking manoeuvre – no different to changing down a gear or two, which most of us would do unconsciously in such circumstances. Staying in GTE mode, though, does mean you'll also rapidly sap your battery power and that rather defeats the object.

The GTE has a theoretical range of around 30 miles on electric power alone, which obviously stretches when it's assisted by the petrol engine.

The batteries can be recharged from any 13amp socket in around three hours 45 minutes, but you can cut that by 90 minutes if you have dedicated wallbox fitted at home or work. VW also supplies a lead to match the increasing number of fast chargers appearing at, for example, motorway services which cuts charging time still further.

So, depending on your driving style and type of journey, it really is not beyond the realms of possibility that you could be using the GTE for, say commuting, while hardly ever having to trouble the oil companies. You can remotely manage the GTE's charging from a smart phone app (provided you plugged the car in first, of course).

Inside the GTE, the only really difference to its conventional counterparts is the driver display which shows battery range, whether power is being used and the intensity of power regeneration. Probably the only reason that the GTE is marginally slower on the 0 to 62mph dash than the GTi/GTD is the 120kgs of lithium batteries. But the battery pack is installed low down and in front of the rear axle so it doesn't seem to affect the legendary roadholding and handling of its stablemates, at least on public roads.

The GTE is fitted as standard with a specially developed version of the Audi/VW six-speed DSG dual clutch transmission with the option of very quick manual changes using paddles behind the steering wheel.

The GTE sets a new benchmark for its combination of performance and economy, and the hybrid's launch makes it the only car to offer five different power sources – the others being petrol, diesel, pure electric and compressed natural gas, although the latter hasn't made it to these shores.

Subaru's Outback is very smart combination

By Iain Dooley

If you're not a fully paid up member of the SUV club but still need to combine refinement with rugged driving ability, Subaru's new Outback crossover might be the best 4x4x for you.

Look past the Outback's modest visual updates and there's clear evidence that Subaru has been busy making its crossover-style wagon more competitive. The Japanese firm has made a number of welcome tweaks to the driving experience, with changes to the car's steering and suspension, resulting in sharper and more engaging on-road behaviour.

Subaru has also been busy in the Outback's cabin, as the overall ambience has been improved thanks to a significant uplift in quality.

New trim materials, a new fascia and seats help boost the car's premium class credentials. And alongside revised engines, Subaru is rolling out a suite of trick active safety measures, including an auto brake function, intelligent cruise control and a lane departure warning system.

Durable

Admired among the Subaru faithful for its no-nonsense personality, practical cabin and easy-on-the-eye looks, the Outback offers an interesting blend of (almost) go-anywhere abilities, plus durable mechanicals. This revised Outback is closer to its European rivals in the refinement and quality departments than ever before, although it remains a niche consideration for most buyers.

The Outback's generous size cabin ensures that all occupants benefit from a decent amount of head and legroom – especially in the back. Oddment space in the cabin is also good, while the car's boot is large enough to cope with the demands of most owners.

Thanks to the Outback's elevated ride height, cabin entry and loading, the boot is made that bit easier, too. And it wouldn't be right to omit reference to the car's 4x4 system, which is likely to be just as useful in the dry as in the wet.

As part of the Outback's update programme Subaru's engineers have made some welcome improvements under the car's skin.

Tweaks to refine how the Outback behaves on the road have resulted in a more engaging and refined driving experience, while the diesel-CVT auto combination proves to be a smooth and predictable combination. Factor in all-wheel drive and the Outback is a robust, all-weather package that's also brisk, yet imparts a high level of confidence and security.

Protect

Aside from the basic act of driving, Subaru has pushed the boat out with an all-singing, all-dancing active safety package, which combines intelligent cruise control, lane departure warning and an auto brake function to better protect you from the outside world than many of the Outback's pricier rivals.

No longer a cheap and cheerful alternative for rough and ready farmers, Subaru's Outback delivers a high level of refinement, comfort and practicality on a par with its premium European rivals.

Although well equipped in standard trim, you'll need to pick an auto transmission car if you want to benefit from Subaru's trick active safety package. Furthermore, diesel remains the smart choice if you want to reduce your tax and fuel outlay.

If the current crop of fashion-led SUVs bring you out in a rash, Subaru's polished, yet no-nonsense Outback offers a good blend of versatility, useful technology, all-weather practicality and understated style. It's not the last word in sporty handling, but it'll likely be more helpful when the roads are soaked or you need to tow a trailer than the latest soft-roader.

This car summed up in a single word: Loyal.

If this car was a: Dog, it would be the loyal, willing and able family labrador.

TESTED

Subaru Outback 2.0D SE Premium Lineartronic, £32,995

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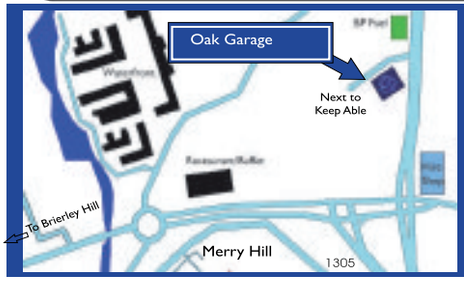

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Perks to battle on through injury

CRADLEY ace Ellis Perks has vowed to race on – despite suffering with a knee injury.

Perks has revealed the full extent of the damage, but insists he's no quitter and wants to help the Heathens push for a third straight league title.

Despite remaining far from fully fit, Perks is hoping his time on the sidelines means his knee will be able to withstand the rest of the season.

Having made the lengthy trip from Australia for his first full season in British racing, Perks is determined to ensure injury does not derail his campaign.

And with Cradley chasing an unprecedented third successive National League title, he will continue to fight on in pursuit of glory.

Said Perks: "When I was riding over here towards the end of last season I had a crash and ruptured two ligaments in my left knee.

"I gave them as long as I could to heal, but when I had a couple of incidents riding for Cradley at Perry Barr and then at Kent it upset it again.

"I decided to take a couple of weeks off to try and let it heal a bit so it won't affect me too much and I can get back to top form again.

"We've got a really good chance of winning the title this season, so I'd rather try and push through the pain barrier to make sure we go all the way.

"It's not ideal, but I want to keep on going and try and help Cradley win the title again.

"I feel much better after having a bit of a break, so hopefully I can come back and starting scoring loads of points again at reserve.

"I've had some really good meetings for Cradley so far, so I hope I can have more of the same over the rest of the season and make sure we get the job done."

Having missed Cradley's season launch night back in March, Perks will meet with Heathens supporters at Cradley Heath Liberal Club next Thursday, May 21.

And he is looking forward to what is set to be an entertaining evening with the clubs' passionate supporters.

'Hitman' is heading to racecourse as speaker

FORMER world boxing champion Ricky Hatton will again be top of the bill for an evening at Dunstall Racecourse in Wolverhampton next month.

'The Hitman' will spend the night in the Black Country on Friday June 19 to talk about his life and career, during a question and answer session.

Still just 36, the Mancunian ruled as the IBF, IBO and WBA 'super' title holder and is the only Englishman to have shared a ring with Floyd Mayweather Jnr and Manny Pacquiao.

He's headlined the major shows in Las Vegas and over here, too, which drew a then-record 55,000 fans to what is now the Etihad Stadium in Manchester.

The famed bodysnatcher lost just three times in 48 pro contests at light welterweight and welter, with two of those to Mayweather and Pacquiao.

He's won legendary wars with the likes of Kostya Zsu, Luis Collazo and Juan Urango and was Ring Magazine's Fighter of the Year in 2005, when he held their title.

He took a long hiatus from the sport before an ill-fated return after three years in 2012, where he was counted out in the ninth round against Vyacheslav Senchenko.

Now an accomplished after-dinner speaker, Hatton's blend of storytelling and cracking jokes should raise plenty of laughs among the audience.

There will also be an auction, raffle and photo opportunities. Tickets, which include a meal, start from £45. Call organiser Ken Purchase on 07976 842 383.

Tipton shutout as Stafford close down

FC Stafford 3 AFC Tipton 0

TIPTON Town visited FC Stafford who were closing the season in the unfamiliar surroundings of the Well-being Stadium.

Stafford recalled captain Dave Wilcock, Matt Rhodes and Ben Smith to the starting line up as the influential Matt Bickley and Lee Melvin unavailable and Will Hollowood moving to the bench.

Against the wind Stafford pressed the Tipton back line though when a pot shot from distance was looping in the net Steve McCabe was on hand to tip the ball over.

It would be Thomas Duffy though that would open the scoring when Smith's powerful drive from the ankle skimmed Duffy's chest and nestled in the top corner.

Stafford would continue to throw themselves forward asRhodes' freekick clashed off the post and Duffy could divert the rebound home.

It would be Duffy again who couldn't head home for four yards George Kirklands cross as Stafford went into the break frustrated at being unable double the lead.

Opportunity

Following the interval Tipton with two substitutions would come in to their best spell of the game though couldn't find a clear opportunity as Wilcock's and Chris Hall held strong in the heart of defence.

Four games in seven days started to tell on Stafford and a quick double substitution saw Willacy and Kirkland withdrew as Hollowood and Charlie Marshall entered the fray. It would be Hollowood that would have the greatest chance as he latched on to Dave Ablewhites pass though pulled his shot wide on the one on one.

On 80 minutes Smith broke free of the resolute Tipton backline and dragged his effort in to the far corner.

Tom Waldron was introduced for the ailing Anderson and the fresh legs gave impetus for Stafford as Hollowood became the biggest threat. On this occasion the ball would be worked down the right and eventually saw Duffy's cut back met by Rhodes who made it 3-0.

Stafford currently sit in second though face a nervous wait on other results and permutations.

Villa play Cleverley to fans relief

Aston Villa's Tom Cleverley celebrates scoring his side's goal against West Ham

Villa 1 West Ham 0

LEE Mason's final whistle at Villa Park on Saturday prompted 36,000 home supporters to let out one big collective and deafening sigh of relief.

Their team, with three wins in their last four games, are now within touching distance of Premier League safety – an achievement most would have barely dared to think possible at points in this, often tortuous, campaign.

But who would have picked Tom Cleverley to be one of the other main heroes? The on-loan Manchester United midfielder, who grimaced his way through the opening six months of the season, netted his third goal in as many games and for the second successive week was Villa's match-winner.

His 31st minute strike earned a victory which, while more than deserved, could never quite be described as comfortable considering what was at stake.

Sherwood's post-match talk of an England recall for the midfielder seemed premature – but only slightly. Cleverley was a thorn in the Hammers' side all afternoon, full of energy and desire. Twice he forced visiting keeper Adrian into smart saves..

Long's reign comes to an end for the Tivs

OUTGOING Tividale boss Ian Long says he is devastated at leaving the Beeches but admitted he and his coaching staff were left with little choice.

Long's two-year stint with the club will come to an end after they attempt to defend their JW Hunt title against Stone Old Alleynians at Molineux next Thursday.

And the former-Tipton Town manager revealed the budget deficit was the ultimate reason behind his resignation. Long said: "First things first, the club comes first, and they approached us explaining that the club were in financial trouble.

"We learned that the playing budget would be cut in half.

"That is simply not a competitive budget at this level. We managed to finish eighth in our first season in the Evo-Stik Division One South – with the smallest budget.

"But I'm gutted, the whole coaching staff (who all resigned alongside Long) are devastated, leaving was the last thing we wanted to do. The players have done an absolutely superb job this season, proven themselves at this level and for them to take an even further significant playing cut would be unacceptable – I just couldn't bring myself to do that."

Tthe boss, affectionately known as 'Pee Wee' by his players, said his tenure has been far from dull.

"It's been a busy two years," he said.

"I've never experienced anything like the spirit, relationship and togetherness here, in my whole time in football. None of them are here for the money, they could've gone last season for higher offers."

Support Pulis on transfers, says Joleon

JOLEON LESCOTT hopes Tony Pulis will be backed in the transfer market this summer to help Albion push on next season.

The Baggies' Premier League safety was confirmed by Saturday's 1-1 draw at Newcastle.

Lescott admits they must now aim higher after a season spent battling against the drop and hopes the head coach will be able to bring in the targets he wants to improve the squad.

"We want to progress," said the centre-back. "That is the aim for every team in the Premier League, no matter what you have achieved or what you haven't achieved, you want to progress and we are no different.

"I'm sure the manager has ideas for next season and hopefully the club back him and we can progress."

Truck hire drives in to rescue Neale

CRADLEY reserve Michael Neale has seen his season saved by Rochdale van rental company Rentruck.

Neale, who has enjoyed a promising start to the campaign with the Heathens, was hit by a major problem with his own transport recently, with the cost of repairs for a breakdown putting his campaign in jeopardy.

He said: "I noticed the van was getting hot driving to Kent. Unfortunately by the time I realised, I'd cooked the engine, blown the head gasket and probably warped the head!

"I'm really grateful to Rentruck for stepping in to help me out. I was worrying what I was going to do and this is a major weight off my mind.

"I'm enjoying my riding but off track issues really can mess with your head!"

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Fletcher sets sights on top 10 spot

Football

CAPTAIN Darren Fletcher believes a top 10 finish should be Albion's minimum aim next season.

The skipper is eager for the Baggies to avoid another campaign spent battling against the drop.

Albion's Premier League safety was confirmed last weekend and Fletcher believes recent form gives encouragement they can target a top half finish next time around.

"I think we've got to go for top ten first and foremost and take it from there," said the 31-year-old midfielder.

"That's easier said than done but hopefully, with the way we've finished this year, let's look to get into the top ten next year and have good cup runs.

"If you get in those positions, who knows what can happen?"

Fletcher, who joined Albion from Manchester United on a free transfer in February, shares head coach Tony Pulis' vision of taking the club to the next level.

"It's great that we have achieved what we have this season but now let's try to kick on," he said.

"One thing the manager said was that he wanted to not stand still and I don't want to stand still as a player.

"So let's look to make progress every season. I think that's important."

Fletcher has meanwhile promised supporters he and his team-mates won't be on the beach for their final two league games, now their main aim of staying up has been achieved.

Albion host champions Chelsea on Monday night before facing travelling to Arsenal on the Premier League's final day. And the skipper has set a new short-term goal of extending the current four-game unbeaten run to the end of the season.

ALBION FANS WANT MORE

Newcastle 1 Albion 1

AFTER underlining his credentials as a top-flight firefighter par excellence, Tony Pulis must now convince Baggies fans he is the man to shape the future of their club.

Despite his clear and obvious knack for producing winning teams in the Premier League, the Welshman might well find quite a few supporters take some persuading.

The former Stoke and Crystal Palace boss is not only the latest victim of two seasons of drudgery, he is the man charged with ending it. It is a serious task for a serious man, and it is one that will take some serious changes.

Saturday brought the latest chapter of a story that has given Albion fans precious little to shout about for two years. A point at Newcastle was solid, hard-earned and valuable. But it wasn't thrilling.

Remarkable

In fact, it has rarely been so since the remarkable 5-5 draw in Sir Alex Ferguson's final game as a manager marked the end of Steve Clarke's first season in charge at The Hawthorns.

The rest of the Scot's reign was tedious as his team scrapped away for points.

Pepe Mel spoke of swashbuckling football but failed to deliver it as players questioned his methods and the Spaniard buckled under the pressure.

Alan Irvine never managed to back up his oft-repeated claim to be a footballing purist with a team to match.

And Pulis – a man whose style of play at Stoke earned him regular criticism – has been unable to buck the trend.

In fact, safety-first has been the latest Baggies boss's preferred modus operandi, and on Saturday the ends absolutely justified the means as a team who looked under serious threat of the drop when he took over in January made sure of Premier League survival mathematically with two fixtures to spare.

The first half was a dreadful spectacle with Albion having the only genuine chance in the opening half-hour. That fell to Craig Dawson, who rose highest to meet an early Craig Gardner corner and send a thudding header against the post, with Youssouf Mulumbu's follow-up charged down.

The hosts went close just before the half-hour when Moussa Sissoko's effort was cleared off the line by Joleon Lescott after the forward's initial effort had struck Jonas Olsson.

But it was the Baggies who went ahead on 32 minutes when Jonas Gutierrez fouled Dawson and Gardner's free-kick was headed home perfectly by Anichebe.

The lead lasted just nine minutes, however, before some sloppy defending handed the home side an equaliser.

The Baggies stood still and failed to clear a Taylor free-kick, allowing Ayoze Perez to fire home from 15 yards.

The second half brought a little more end-to-end action and just moments after the restart a big chance went begging for the Baggies.

Anichebe did well to hold the ball up and feed Darren Fletcher, whose left-wing cross found Gardner arriving at the far post.

But the midfielder fired wide of the target .

The final whistle brought with it some warm embraces among the Baggies players.

Tim Krul of Newcastle United makes a diving save from both Saido Berahino and Chris Brunt

Cleverley is open to Villa offers

TOM CLEVERLEY says he would be open to signing a permanent deal at Villa this summer.

Boss Tim Sherwood has made no secret of his desire to keep the on-loan Manchester United midfielder when his current contract at Old Trafford expires next month.

And Cleverley, who scored his third goal in as many games in Saturday's crucial 1-0 win over West Ham, is also keen to talk after admitting he is happy at Villa Park. "I think first and foremost you have to be playing at a club where you fit in," said the 25-year-old.

"Where you're playing in the position where you want to play and where you like the manager, the lads – this club ticks those boxes.

"We'll just see what happens. First, the club have got to offer me something.

"Those talks haven't taken place yet. We're just concentrating on the football on the pitch at moment.

"Long may that continue if we keep on winning games.

"I don't concentrate on these things too much. I just know my contract runs out on June 30 at Man United, that's my position."

Cleverley is also attracting interest from the likes of Everton and on the continent but he insists money won't be the only factor when it comes to choosing a new club.

"I don't think any Premier League players are going to be short of a quid or two," he said.

"You have just got to be happy first of all and I am at this club, so let's see where we go from there."

Sherwood was effusive in his praise of Cleverley after his goal put Villa within touching distance of safety.

Grealish needs pads for Premier, jokes Sherwood

TIM SHERWOOD has joked Jack Grealish may soon need cricket pads if he keeps being targeted by Premier League opponents.

Grealish, one of the stars of Villa's recent revival, has come in for some rough treatment over recent games.

But the manager claims he gets plenty of practice for the physicality of the top flight from teammates on the training ground.

"I've never seen someone get kicked so much in training," said Sherwood. "He's getting a lot of practice. Next week, he's wearing the same pads Alastair Cook wears!"

Far from shying away from the challenge, Sherwood believes the 19-year-old is enjoying the competitive edge and using the attention he receives to benefit the team. "He almost likes it," admitted the boss.

"No-one likes getting hurt but he loves bodies around him

"He's doing something right."

Grealish has received rave reviews since being handed his first Premier League start in last month's 3-3 draw against QPR.

Villa fans in rush to get Cup tickets

HARDENED Villa fans queued from the early hours as the scramble to snap up precious FA Cup final tickets reaches fever pitch.

The ticket office queue snaked around the Villa Park car park on Tuesday morning, packed with supporters eager to snare a seat for the May 30 clash against Arsenal at Wembley.

Some arrived at 3.30am, with one group even bringing a disposal barbecue to cook breakfast.

The rush was prompted by a change in ticketing criteria which saw supporters with an eight-game booking history from this season able to buy tickets.

That criteria changed again today to a seven-game booking history and with the club's 25,000 allocation fast selling out, further big queues were expected.

Meanwhile, teenage Villa star Jack Grealish has rejected the offer of a first senior Republic of Ireland call-up.

The 19-year-old was widely tipped to be included in the squad that Ireland manager Martin O'Neill named for games with England and Scotland. But his name was conspicuous by its absence in the 33-strong list when it was eventually made public.

The Birmingham-born midfielder can also play for England but has already represented Republic of Ireland at under-21 level.

Speaking at a press conference in Dublin, former Villa supremo O'Neill said: "I spoke to both Jack and his father, and I think Jack just didn't want to make his mind up at this stage. He wanted to complete the season at Aston Villa – there are some important games for them coming up – and he wants to make his decision at some time in the future."

Albion eyeing up striker Gignac

ALBION are weighing up a swoop for France international striker Andre-Pierre Gignac.

Baggies boss Tony Pulis and assistant Dave Kemp ran the rule over the 29-year-old, who plays for Marseille, against Monaco on Sunday night.

Gignac failed to add to his 20-goal tally for the season and was taken off after 56 minutes to be replaced by Belgian Michy Batshuayi. But the striker is out of contract.

Pulis tried to sign Gignac for Stoke, who have maintained an interest.

Gignac, who has scored 58 goals in 153 games for Marseille, has more lucrative offers in Russia but is said to not be keen

★★★

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